



TRI-STATE HOME TRENDS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN
A CUSTOM INSTALLED
SHOWER

PAGE 3

THE FIRST ANNUAL DUBUQUE HOME
SHOW PREVIEW

PAGE 12

A GUIDE TO DIY SMART
VIDEO DOORBELLS

PAGE 15

2025 FALL EDITION



WIDMEIER

FURNITURE • FLOORING

**AREAS TOP SELECTION
of QUALITY BRANDS**

SmartStrand *Silk*
FOREVER CLEAN

Best
HOME FURNISHINGS

M
MAVIN

SB
SMITH BROTHERS
of BERNE

Audacity
The Fearless Waterproof Laminate Floor

LA Z BOY
HOME FURNISHINGS & DÉCOR

MOHAWK
PORTICO COLLECTION

Home Stretch
PUT YOUR FEET UP



Rachel Erschen
Design Consultant



W **DESIGNS BY
WIDMEIER**

LOCALLY OWNED FAMILY OPERATED 4390 DODGE STREET • DUBUQUE, IA 52003

Ph: (563) 690-2211

Start smart. Save big.

Competitive rates and terms
with flexible down payment
options to fit your
lifestyle.



scan TO VISIT OUR
MORTGAGE CENTER



www.bankfidelity.bank | 800.403.8333



MEMBER
FDIC

CONTENTS



TRI-STATE HOME TRENDS FALL 2025

- 3 WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CUSTOM INSTALLED SHOWER
- 5 5 WAYS TO INCREASE THE CURB APPEAL OF YOUR HOME
- 8 4 BUDGET-FRIENDLY IDEAS TO FRESHEN UP INDOOR SPACES
- 9 DOES ADDING A FIREPLACE INCREASE YOUR HOME'S VALUE ENOUGH TO OFFSET THE COST?
- 12 THE FIRST ANNUAL DUBUQUE HOME SHOW PREVIEW
- 13 HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR COOLER WEATHER
- 15 A GUIDE TO DIY SMART VIDEO DOORBELLS
- 16 HOW TO CREATE A PET FRIENDLY HOME
- 17 ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES EVERY NEW HOMEOWNER SHOULD HAVE
- 19 FALL IN LOVE WITH OUTDOOR DECOR
- 20 5 SIMPLE KITCHEN UPGRADES THAT SAVE YOU TIME

TRI-STATE HOME TRENDS

Your local guide
to homes, products,
services,
& contractors.

Tri-State Home TRENDS is a published by

RTN PUBLISHING, INC

6170 Forest Hills Drive
Asbury IA 52002-9349
Phone – 563.557.7571
JuliensJournal.com

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

ROBIN NICHOLS

VICE PRESIDENT & OFFICE MANAGER

TERRI NICHOLS

DESIGNER

Charlotte Grass

ADVERTISING & EDITORIAL INQUIRIES

Robin Nichols
563.557.7571
Robin@JuliensJournal.com

Volume 9, No. 1

The publisher makes no representations concerning any product or service advertised in this publication. Tri-State Home TRENDS and JuliensJournal.com serve only as a medium for sellers to reach potential buyers and do not guarantee the accuracy of any advertisement. Tri-State Home TRENDS makes every effort to eliminate typographical errors and assumes no responsibility for misspelling names. All editorial items submitted are subject to editing and alteration at the sole discretion of the publisher. Design and format of the magazine and website are protected by the copyright laws of the United States of America. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part is prohibited without specific written permission of the publisher.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CUSTOM-INSTALLED SHOWER

Embarking on the journey of a custom-installed shower requires careful planning and a keen eye for detail. This isn't just about picking out pretty tiles; it's about designing a functional, beautiful, and long-lasting addition to your home. Here's what you should consider to ensure your custom shower perfectly meets your needs and desires.

1. The Right Professional: Experience and Communication are Key

The foundation of a successful custom shower installation lies in choosing the right contractor. Look for professionals with extensive experience specifically in custom bathroom remodels and shower installations.

The bathroom, once a purely utilitarian space, has transformed into a sanctuary, place for relaxation, rejuvenation, and personal indulgence. And at the heart of many dream bathrooms lies the custom-installed shower. Far from a one-size-fits-all solution, a custom shower offers unparalleled personalization, transforming a daily routine into a spa-like experience. But with so many options and considerations, where do you even begin?

✓ **Portfolio and References:** Ask to see a portfolio of their previous work. Pay attention to the quality of their tile work, the seamless-ness of glass installations, and the overall finish. Request references and call them to inquire about their experience with the contractor, their communication, adherence to timelines, and problem-solving skills.

✓ **Licensing and Insurance:** Verify that the contractor is licensed and insured. This protects you from liability in case of accidents or damage during the project.

✓ **Clear Communication:** A good contractor will listen to your ideas, offer expert advice, and communicate clearly throughout the entire process. They should be transparent about timelines, budgets, and any potential challenges. Get everything in writing—a detailed contract outlining the scope of work, materials, costs, and payment schedule is crucial.

2. Design and Layout: Functionality Meets Aesthetics

Before diving into material selections, consider the practical aspects of your shower's design and layout.

✓ **Size and Shape:** How much space do you have? Will you opt for a spacious walk-in shower, a corner unit, or a neo-angle design? Consider future accessibility needs as well – a curbless entry,

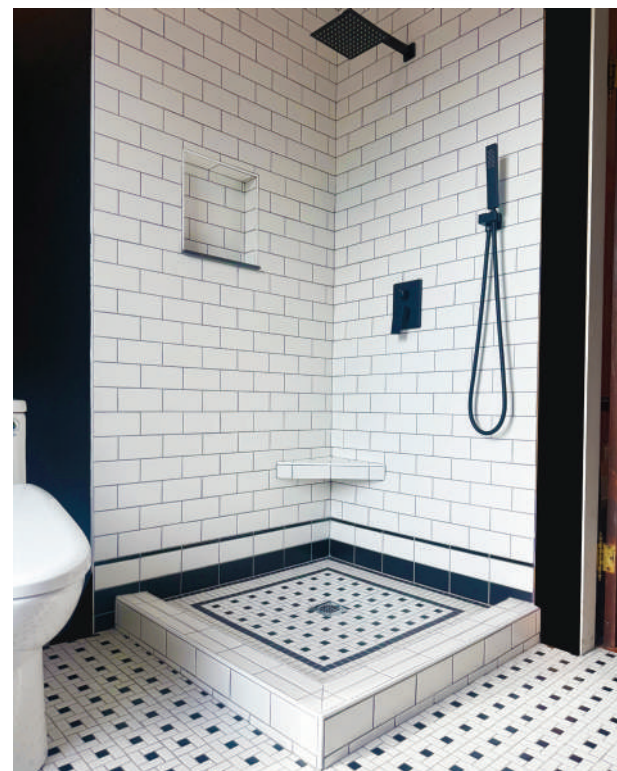


Photo 1: A custom installed shower by Becwar Tile & Marble.

Photo 2: A partial view of a custom installed bathroom by Becwar Tile & Marble.



for instance, offers both a sleek look and ease of access.

- ✓ **Entry and Door Style:** Hinged doors, sliding doors, pivot doors, or no door at all (for true walk-in designs) all have their advantages. Think about the swing radius of hinged doors and whether it interferes with other bathroom fixtures.
- ✓ **Niches and Benches:** Built-in niches for shampoos and soaps

eliminate clutter and are far more aesthetically pleasing than caddies. A shower bench can enhance comfort and provide a safe place to sit, especially useful for shaving or for individuals with mobility challenges. Ensure these are properly sloped for drainage.

- ✓ **Lighting:** Proper lighting is essential for both aesthetics and safety. Consider recessed lighting within the shower stall and potentially accent lighting to highlight tile work.

3. *Materials Matter: Durability, Maintenance, and Style*

The materials you choose will significantly impact the look, feel, and longevity of your custom shower.

- ✓ **Tile:** From porcelain and ceramic to natural stone (marble, granite, travertine) and glass, the options are vast. Consider the tile's slip resistance for the shower floor (a smaller tile with more grout lines often provides better grip). Larger

format tiles can create a more expansive feel, while intricate mosaics add visual interest. Discuss grout color and type – epoxy grout offers superior stain resistance and durability.

- ✓ **Shower Pan/Base:** A custom shower often utilizes a tiled shower pan, which requires expert waterproofing and proper sloping for drainage. Alternatively, a prefabricated shower pan (acrylic or composite) can be a more cost-effective and easier-to-install option.
- ✓ **Glass Enclosures:** Choose tempered safety glass, typically 3/8" or 1/2" thick, for durability and safety. Consider clear glass for an open feel or frosted/textured glass for added privacy. Look for glass treated with a water-repellent coating to minimize water spots and simplify cleaning.
- ✓ **Fixtures and Hardware:** Choose high-quality, corrosion-resistant fixtures in a finish that comple-



Because of you...
Becwar Tile & Marble has been a household name for over 35 years.

We offer competitive pricing with our own professional installers, and in-house design consulting. Stop in our **NEW** designer showroom today.



245 RAILROAD AVE. DUBUQUE, IA 52003 / 563.588.1203

ments your overall bathroom design. Consider a thermostatic valve for consistent water temperature, multiple showerheads (rain head, handheld, body sprays), and sturdy hardware for doors and grab bars.

4. *Waterproofing: The Unseen Hero*

Perhaps the most critical, yet often overlooked, aspect of a custom shower is its waterproofing. Without proper waterproofing, your beautiful new shower could lead to costly water damage and mold issues.

✓ **Waterproofing Membranes:**

Ensure your contractor uses a reliable waterproofing membrane system (e.g., liquid applied, sheet membranes) behind the tile on all walls and the shower pan. This creates an impenetrable barrier against water penetration.

✓ **Proper Sloping:** The shower floor must be correctly sloped towards the drain (at least 1/4 inch per foot) to ensure efficient water runoff and prevent pooling.

✓ **Seamless Transitions:** Pay attention to how the waterproofing extends into niches, benches, and curbs to prevent any weak points.

Investing in a custom-installed shower is an investment in your home and your daily well-being. By focusing on selecting the right professional, meticulously planning the design, choosing durable materials, and prioritizing robust waterproofing, you'll create a shower that not only elevates your bathroom's aesthetics but also provides years of luxurious, trouble-free enjoyment. Take your time, ask questions, and envision your perfect oasis – the result will be well worth the effort.

Photos provided by Becwar Tile & Marble. Visit [Facebook.com/becwartile-andmarble](https://www.facebook.com/becwartile-andmarble).



5 Ways to INCREASE THE CURB APPEAL OF YOUR HOME

Increasing your home's curb appeal can make a huge difference in creating a welcoming first impression without breaking the bank. Whether you're preparing to sell or just want to freshen things up, these five strategies can significantly boost your home's exterior charm.

1. Refresh Your Front Door

Your front door is the focal point of your home's entrance and updating it can create a powerful impact with

minimal effort and expense. Here are a few ideas:

Paint it a New Color

Choose a bold, inviting color that complements your home's exterior. Warm reds, cheerful yellows, or calming blues can add character and personality.

Add New Hardware

Replace your door handle and knocker with more modern or stylish options to instantly elevate the look.

The Genuine. The Original.



**If it's the
Red Ribbon,
it's the
Right one!**

1040 Cedar Cross Rd. | Dubuque, IA 52003
www.overheaddoordubuge.com

563-582-3020



Consider a Door Wreath or Seasonal Décor

A simple wreath or seasonal decor adds a touch of warmth and can be updated throughout the year.

These small updates can be achieved for less than \$100, making it one of the most affordable ways to increase curb appeal.

2. Enhance Your Landscaping with Simple Additions

Landscaping doesn't need to be a big undertaking; a few tweaks can give your yard a fresh, appealing look.

Add Flower Beds

Placing flower beds along the walkway or near the front of your home is a great way to add color and life. Choose easy-to-maintain plants and flowers that thrive in your area.

Trim Hedges and Trees

Well-maintained greenery instantly creates a polished look. Trim overgrown bushes, remove dead branches, and make sure walkways are clear.

Install Solar-Powered Path Lights

Solar lights are inexpensive and can add ambiance and safety along walkways or the driveway.

With \$50-\$100, you can make significant improvements to your landscaping without hiring a professional.

3. Clean and Paint the Exterior

A clean and well-painted exterior always stands out. While repainting an entire house might be costly, smaller areas can make a substantial difference.

Pressure Wash the Siding, Walkways, and Driveway

Rent a pressure washer to clean away dirt and mildew buildup on surfaces. A clean exterior looks fresh and more inviting.

Touch Up Paint on Trim and Shutters

Refreshing the trim, shutters, and other accent areas doesn't require as much paint but can make a big impact.

Clean or Replace the Gutters

Gutters can accumulate debris and stains, but regular cleaning or a fresh coat of paint can improve the look of your home.

Depending on the equipment you may already have, a deep clean and paint touch-up can often be done for under \$100.

From Pavement to Backroads— We've Got You Covered

Low-rate loans for vehicles and UTVs.
Hit the road or trail with ease.

Apply now at DuTrac.org

DuTrac
Community Credit Union
Real. Life. Banking.



4. Upgrade Outdoor Fixtures and Accessories

Outdoor fixtures and small decor pieces can set a charming tone for your home's exterior.

Replace House Numbers

Install new, stylish house numbers in a size and finish that stand out against your home's color.

Upgrade Lighting Fixtures

Replacing outdated light fixtures on the porch or near the garage can give your home a modern update. Choose fixtures that match your home's style but also offer a brighter, energy-efficient glow.

Add a Doormat and Outdoor Rug

A fresh, clean doormat or an outdoor rug adds personality and makes the entryway feel more inviting.

A few new accessories can be purchased for less than \$50 each, making this a low-cost way to add instant appeal.

5. Replace or Upgrade the Garage Door

Upgrading or replacing a garage door is a smart investment that can significantly boost a home's value and curb appeal. As one of the first features people notice, a stylish, modern garage door enhances the overall aesthetic of the property, making a strong first impression. Beyond appearance, newer garage doors offer improved energy efficiency, better insulation, and enhanced security—features that appeal to today's homebuyers. They also require less maintenance and operate more quietly and reliably than older models.

According to national remodeling reports, garage door replacements often recoup a high percentage of their cost at resale, making them one of the top-ranked home improvement projects in terms of return on investment. Whether preparing to sell or simply upgrading your home, a new garage door is a cost-effective



way to add functionality, safety, and style while increasing market value and attracting potential buyers with a clean, updated exterior.

Final Thoughts

With a little creativity and minimal expense, these upgrades can go a

long way toward making your home more attractive. Each of these simple changes will not only increase your home's curb appeal but also provide a sense of pride every time you come home.



It took 69 million years to get it here, but it's in stock now.
Stop in and see our **LARGE** selection of **IN STOCK** slabs.

400 HARRISON STREET • DUBUQUE, IOWA 52003
PHONE 563-584-9499 FAX 563-584-9400
MOUNTAINTOPSTONE.COM

4 BUDGET-FRIENDLY IDEAS TO FRESHEN UP INDOOR SPACES

Whether you're fatigued by seeing the same decor every day or simply looking for an opportunity to refresh indoor spaces with an appealing mini makeover, rethinking your favorite room in the house doesn't need to be an expensive ordeal. Even if your budget is tight, you can still make small changes to transform a room.

Consider these ideas:

New Color Scheme

Bring stylish flair to your space with a new color scheme. Rather than replacing all the furniture, which can be costly, focus on smaller accessory pieces such as pillows and decorative items. Create variety by using multiple hues of the same color or mixing two or more complementary colors.

Accent Furniture

Introduce new accent furniture. Smaller and less cost-prohibitive than centerpieces like a couch, for example, accent pieces such as end tables, or a coffee table can provide subtle changes to the look of a room. You could also opt to refinish a piece of furniture you have on-hand to create a look that's all your own.



Rearrange What You Have

Morph your room by simply rearranging what you already own. Adjusting the orientation of your furni-

ture and decor can let you see your favorite room from a whole new perspective.

DIY Art

Whether it's a flea market find, such as an old window frame that you paint and add a display shelf to the base, or a series of photos from your favorite vacation destination, adding some DIY art can not only update your room, but make it more personal, too.

A new look for your favorite room can go a long way, so find ways to update your space for a comfy retreat you can enjoy. Find more ideas at eLivingtoday.com.

Excellence in Electrical Construction Since 1931



Electrical Construction • Design/Build • Service & Maintenance • Solar
Madison, WI • Janesville, WI • Dubuque, IA • Milwaukee, WI

DOES ADDING A **FIREPLACE** INCREASE YOUR HOME'S VALUE ENOUGH TO OFFSET THE COST?

Adding a fireplace to your home can create a warm, cozy atmosphere while enhancing the overall aesthetic of your living space. However, homeowners often wonder if the cost of installation is justified by the increase in property value. The answer depends on various factors, including the type of fireplace, the local housing market, and buyer preferences. In this article, we'll explore whether adding a fireplace is a sound financial investment by analyzing the costs involved and how much value it can add to your home.



The Costs of Adding a Fireplace

The cost of adding a fireplace to your home varies widely depending on the type of fireplace, the materials used, and the complexity of the installation. Here's a breakdown of common options:

Wood-Burning Fireplaces

A traditional wood-burning fireplace typically involves significant installation work. The construction of a chimney, hearth and mantel can cost anywhere from \$7,000 to \$15,000 or more, depending on the materials and labor involved. This type of fireplace requires careful consideration of building codes and safety regulations, which can further increase costs.

Gas Fireplaces

Gas fireplaces are generally more affordable than wood-burning ones, with installation costs ranging from \$2,000 to \$6,000. These fireplaces don't require a full chimney, as venting can be done through an exterior wall, which reduces installation complexity and expense. However, you may need to install a gas line, which adds to the overall cost.

Electric Fireplaces

Electric fireplaces are the most budget-friendly option, with costs typically ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 for installation. Since they don't require venting or gas lines, electric fireplaces can be installed in almost any room, making them a popular choice for homeowners who want a simple, low-cost solution.

Does a Fireplace Increase Home Value?

Adding a fireplace can increase your home's value, but the extent of that increase depends on several factors:

Buyer Demand and Location

The impact of a fireplace on home value is largely determined by buyer preferences and the local housing market. In colder climates where fireplaces are seen as a practical necessity, a fireplace can add significant value to a home. In these areas, buyers may be willing to pay a premium for the warmth and charm a fireplace provides.

According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), homes with fireplaces can see a 6-12% increase in value,



especially in regions with long, cold winters. In contrast, in warmer climates where fireplaces are used less frequently, the value increase may be minimal.

Type of Fireplace

Not all fireplaces have the same impact on home value. Traditional

wood-burning fireplaces tend to have the greatest appeal for buyers who value their authenticity and aesthetic. However, they also come with higher maintenance and operating costs, which could be a deterrent for some buyers.

Gas fireplaces are highly attractive due to their convenience and low maintenance, and they tend to appeal to a broad range of potential buyers. Electric fireplaces, while easy to install and maintain, may not add as much value since they are perceived as less of a premium feature.

Energy Efficiency and Cost Savings

Energy-efficient fireplaces, especially gas models with direct-vent systems, can provide additional value by reducing heating costs. Buyers may view the fireplace not only as an aesthetic feature but also as a functional, energy-saving asset. If a fireplace can help lower utility bills, this might boost its appeal to potential buyers.

Placement and Aesthetic Appeal

Where the fireplace is installed and how it fits within the overall design of the home can affect its impact on value. A well-placed fireplace in a living room or family room can become

YOUR NEXT BIG MOVE STARTS HERE



Seamless online application, competitive rates and in-house servicing make it even easier to love where you live.



Buy or refinance today!

dupaco.com/HomeLoans

a focal point, enhancing the space's atmosphere. In contrast, a poorly located or awkwardly designed fireplace might not add significant value. Stylish mantels, hearths, and surrounding materials like stone or brick can increase the perceived value by creating an elegant, high-end look.

Does It Offset the Cost?

To determine if adding a fireplace offsets its cost, you'll need to weigh the potential value increase against installation expenses. Here are a few scenarios:

Wood-Burning Fireplace

A wood-burning fireplace may cost upwards of \$10,000, but in a cold climate, it could increase your home's value by \$10,000 to \$20,000, offering a solid return on investment (ROI). In warmer climates, however, the increase might only be \$5,000, which would not fully offset the cost.

Gas Fireplace

A gas fireplace typically costs \$3,000 to \$5,000 to install, and it could raise your home's value by \$5,000 to \$10,000. In many cases, this can result in an ROI that offsets the initial investment, especially in areas where buyers prioritize convenience and low maintenance.

Electric Fireplace

Electric fireplaces are inexpensive to install, with costs ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. However, the value they add is usually lower, often under \$1,000. While they may not dramatically increase home value, the low cost of installation makes it easier to recoup the investment.

Additional Considerations

Long-Term Enjoyment

While adding a fireplace may not always fully offset the cost in terms of increased home value, there's also the personal enjoyment factor to consider. A fireplace can make your home more comfortable and inviting, pro-

viding you and your family with years of warmth and ambiance.

Maintenance Costs

Keep in mind that fireplaces, particularly wood-burning ones, come with ongoing maintenance costs. Chimney cleaning, inspections, and repairs can add to the total cost of ownership, potentially reducing the ROI over time. Gas and electric fireplaces require less maintenance but still need occasional servicing.

Resale Considerations

If you're planning to sell your home soon after adding the fireplace, you may see a quicker return on investment, especially in a competitive market where buyers are seeking move-in-ready homes with desirable features. However, if you plan to stay in your home for many years, the immediate ROI may be less important than the long-term value the fireplace adds to your home experience.

Is Adding a Fireplace Worth It?

Adding a fireplace to your home can increase its value, but whether that increase offsets the cost depends on various factors such as your location, the type of fireplace, and buyer preferences in your area. In colder regions, a fireplace can offer a strong return on investment, particularly if it's a high-quality gas or wood-burning model. However, in warmer areas, the added value may not fully cover the installation costs.

Beyond financial considerations, a fireplace adds to the ambiance and comfort of your home, which can make it a worthwhile investment for personal enjoyment. Ultimately, if you plan carefully and choose the right type of fireplace for your home and market, you can maximize both its aesthetic and financial value.

GATEWAY SALES & SERVICE APPLIANCE

LABOR DAY SALE!

Made in America by American Workers
Manufacturing Facilities in Iowa, Ohio & Oklahoma

Whirlpool CORPORATION **MAYTAG** **KitchenAid**

DUBUQUE, IA
2600 Dodge Street, Highway 20 Plaza

MANCHESTER, IA
www.gatewayappliance.com

DUBUQUE HOME SHOW



THE FIRST annual DUBUQUE HOME SHOW PREVIEW

The First Annual Dubuque Home Show is Coming This Fall — and Admission is Free! Get ready to jumpstart your spring projects this fall at the **Dubuque Home Show**, September 12-14, 2025, at the Grand River Center!

Whether you're interested in home automation, security, remodeling, or design, you'll find inspiration, ideas, and experts ready to help. Meet face-to-face with trusted local professionals, discover the latest products and trends, and take advantage of exclusive show savings.

Plus, don't miss your chance to enter giveaways and enjoy a fun, family-friendly atmosphere. With **free admission and parking**, there's no reason to miss out!



Find more details online at
DubuqueHomeShow.com

When & Where: September 12-14, 2025

Grand River Center, Dubuque

We can't wait to see you there!



How to Prepare Your Home for **COOLER WEATHER** 4 PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE A HIGH ROI

As the leaves begin to change and temperatures start to drop, it's time to start thinking about preparing your home for the cooler months. With a few simple steps, you can ensure your haven of comfort stays warm, inviting and energy-efficient throughout fall and winter.

According to Westlake Royal Building Projects, consider these home projects based on Zonda's 2024 Cost vs. Value Report to get your home ready for the cooler seasons and give you a nice return on your investment.

Upgrade Your Garage

New garage doors typically come with energy-efficient features and advanced security measures but are also relatively low-cost updates com-

pared to the significant perceived value and resale benefits. In fact, replacing a garage door boasts a 193% return on investment, according to the report. Pairing new garage doors with updated trim can also offer a tight seal from exterior elements such as wind, snow and water.

Insulate for a Warmer Interior

Insulated siding can play a crucial role in enhancing your home's thermal performance. By providing an additional layer of protection, it helps reduce heat loss, ensuring your home remains warm and your energy bills stay manageable. Plus, according to the report, vinyl siding replacement has an 80.2% return on investment. An option with a solid core construction provides added strength and im-

pact resistance while also contributing to better energy efficiency. In addition, the solid core reduces external noise and is designed to endure extreme weather conditions.

Leak-Proof Your Home's Windows

Windows can be substantial energy drainers and let warmth out when they're not properly sealed. If you notice a draft coming in around your windows, sealing cracks or gaps with aesthetically pleasing trim can make a significant difference in keeping the heat in and chilly air out. For extreme drafts, consider replacing windows altogether, which can provide sellers with an average 67.1% return on vinyl window replacement, according to the report.

Shield Your Roof

Your roof is your home's first line of defense against the elements. Check for damaged shingles or tiles and make necessary repairs to prevent leaks. If a roof replacement is needed – which provides a 56.9% return on investment using asphalt shingles, according to the report – consider incorporating a high-quality roofing underlayment to provide an extra layer of protection against water, heavy snow and ice. This underlayment serves as a secondary water protective layer, energy-saving radiant barrier and above-deck roof insulation blanket that is all-in-one. It incorporates an anti-glare coating in cool blue, making it easier and safer to install than alternative shiny radiant barrier options.

For more information visit WestlakeRoyalBuildingProducts.com.



Thinking of going solar? We're here to help!

At Stateline Solar, we make going solar simple and educational — guiding you through every step with clear answers and honest advice.

We're proud to serve homeowners, businesses, and the agricultural community with custom renewable energy solutions. Here's the difference: **our customers own their solar systems.** We do not lease — which means you receive the full benefit of federal, state, and utility incentives, resulting in a faster return on investment and long-term savings.

As your local solar experts, we're committed to enriching our community while delivering exceptional service. At Stateline Solar, we're not just a company — we're your neighbors, working to build a brighter, more sustainable future.

Already have solar? We offer maintenance, repairs, and inspections for any system — no matter who installed it.

Scan to visit our website & get a **free** solar proposal!

Every solar proposal is customized specifically to your home, business or farms energy needs & desires.



Ask us about our **local solar financing!**

\$0 ZERO ^{for} **90**
DOWN PAYMENTS DAYS

German American
State Bank
a division of FORESIGHT BANK

*Loans subject to approval. Qualifications & rules apply. Offer subject to change without notice. See a German American State Bank representative for details. Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender. Loans will begin accruing interest at the contract rate during the initial 90 day payment deferral period, starting at the date of disbursement.

Family Owned



Community Values



Local Team

STATELINE
SOLAR

815-580-3011
LENA, IL
STATELINESOLAR.NET



A GUIDE TO DIY SMART VIDEO DOOR BELLS



A smart video doorbell is more than just a convenient way to see who's at your door; it's a security upgrade that offers peace of mind and remote monitoring. Here's a breakdown of the basic types of video doorbells you can install yourself, along with some popular options at various price points.

Types of Video Doorbells

Wired Video Doorbell

Pros: Reliable power supply, often offering more advanced features and longer battery life.

Cons: Requires professional installation if you don't have existing doorbell wiring.

Wireless Video Doorbell

Pros: Easy installation, no need for wiring.

Cons: Reliant on battery power, which may need frequent replacement, and limited range.

Popular Video Doorbell Models

Low-Price Options

Ring Video Doorbell (Wired): This budget-friendly option offers basic features like live view, motion detection, and two-way talk.

Blink Video Doorbell (Wireless): A battery-powered doorbell with decent video quality and long battery life, perfect for those who prefer a wire-free solution.

Medium-Price Options

Nest Doorbell (Battery): This sleek doorbell offers advanced features like person detection, package delivery alerts, and integration with other Nest devices.

Arlo Video Doorbell (Wireless): A versatile option with a wide-angle lens, HDR video, and customizable motion zones.

Higher-Price Options

Ring Video Doorbell Pro 2 (Wired): This premium doorbell delivers sharp 1536p HD video, 3D Motion Detection, and advanced AI features.

Eufy Video Doorbell 2K (Battery): A high-resolution doorbell with AI-powered human detection, package tracking, and long battery life.

Installation Tips

Check Compatibility: Ensure the doorbell is compatible with your existing wiring or Wi-Fi network.

Choose the Right Location: Select a spot with good visibility and strong Wi-Fi signal.

Follow the Instructions: Carefully read the installation manual and follow the step-by-step instructions.

Test Thoroughly: After installation, test all features, including video quality, motion detection, and two-way talk.

By understanding the different types of video doorbells and considering your specific needs and budget, you can choose the perfect model to enhance your home security.



Add value and curb appeal to your home with a smooth asphalt driveway.

A well-maintained driveway is one of the **most significant and inviting focal points of your home's exterior.**

With proper installation and maintenance, an asphalt driveway can last up to 30 years!

Contact us today for a
FREE ESTIMATE!

 **IVERSON
CONSTRUCTION**
(608) 568-3840
Iverson-Construction.com

**Serving
SW Wisconsin
and NE Iowa**
EOE, including disability/vets

 **RIVER CITY
PAVING**
(608) 568-3433
RiverCity-Paving.com

HOW TO CREATE A PET FRIENDLY HOME

5 ways to set up a safe, cozy home for cats & dogs

As much as you love your pets and work hard to make them part of the family, they're also a big responsibility. Part of that responsibility includes setting up your home so it's equal parts stylish (for you) and functional (for Fido).

Show furry friends a little love, beyond the walks and snuggles, by making your home more pet friendly.

Set Up Their Space Near an Entry

It's common for pet owners to desire a space to keep all their furry friends' belongings and avoid clutter. Ensure convenience and cleanliness by establishing an area near the door where you can store leashes, collars, toys and more. Consider keeping a towel or two nearby for wiping paws



(and snouts) after going outside. You can also keep your pets' beds, food and water bowls in this space, so it feels like their own little "home" when returning from a walk or going to sleep at night.

Consider Stain-Resistant Fabrics

From furniture to decor, avoiding fabrics that attract pet hair is a no-brainer for pet owners looking to escape a constant mess. Silk and velvet are virtual magnets for fur, while alternatives like leather offer more practical choices that are easy to clean and durable.

Install Resilient Flooring

Reduce your fear of zoomies causing damage to your floors by installing resilient flooring focused on reducing wear. Both durable and beautiful, a variety of floors take on some of the burden of pet ownership with built-in durability for the everyday and the unexpected. With options designed to bridge the gap between style and function, numerous water-resistant and waterproof floors give you and your pets room to live your best lives for years to come without wet shakes

triggering worries. Plus, many resilient floors don't flinch when it comes to addressing muddy paws, often only requiring the mud to be easily wiped away, without harsh cleaning products.

Decorate with Pets in Mind

Displaying Grandma's fine China and your favorite sports memorabilia may not go together with pet ownership – that autographed baseball may look more like a chew toy than a treasured artifact. Instead, prioritize decor that's washable and sturdy so you can avoid coming home to a delicate family heirloom shattered on the floor.

Pet-Proof the Yard

If you plan on your pets being outside on their own, it's a good idea to carefully inspect your outdoor spaces before letting them roam. Look for gaps in the fence, identify potentially harmful plants and ensure outdoor structures like grills and furniture are secure.

This article was provided by Beautifullyresponsible.com.

ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES EVERY NEW HOMEOWNER SHOULD HAVE

Along with the excitement of setting up and decorating your new home, it's crucial to be prepared for the maintenance tasks that come with it. With a few essential supplies, you can handle routine upkeep, minor repairs, and unexpected fixes. Here's a list of must-have maintenance supplies for every new homeowner:

1. Basic Hand Tools

A good toolkit is the backbone of home maintenance. Even if you're not a DIY expert, these tools will help with simple fixes:

Hammer: Useful for nailing, prying, and assembling furniture.

Screwdriver Set: Both Phillips and flat-head screwdrivers in various sizes are necessary for adjusting screws, tightening loose fixtures, and assembling items.

Pliers: Essential for gripping, twisting, and cutting wires or loosening nuts.

Adjustable Wrench: Helpful for plumbing and general repairs, as it adjusts to various bolt sizes.

Tape Measure: Needed for any measuring tasks, from hanging artwork to planning furniture layouts.

Utility Knife: Perfect for cutting through materials like cardboard, carpet, and plastic.

2. Power Drill and Bit Set

A power drill saves time and effort when hanging heavy items, assembling furniture, or even making quick fixes. Choose a cordless drill for better portability and invest in a set of drill bits for wood, metal, and masonry.

3. Step Ladder

A sturdy step ladder is essential for reaching high shelves, cleaning ceiling fixtures, and safely performing maintenance on higher areas. For most indoor tasks, a 4- to 6-foot ladder is ideal.

4. Plumbing Supplies

Plumbing issues are common, but you can often handle them with a few basics:

Plunger: Indispensable for unclogging toilets and sinks.

Pipe Wrench: Useful for dealing with plumbing fixtures and pipes.

Plumber's Tape (Teflon Tape): Helps prevent leaks in threaded pipe joints.

Drain Snake: Great for clearing minor drain clogs.

5. Caulk Gun and Caulk

Over time, caulking around tubs, sinks, and windows wears down. A caulk gun with silicone or acrylic caulk can help you reseal these areas to prevent leaks and drafts.

6. Duct Tape and Electrical Tape

These tapes are essential for quick fixes and temporary repairs. Duct tape is highly versatile and can temporarily fix almost anything, while electrical tape is a must for minor wiring or insulating tasks.

7. Paint Supplies

Touch-ups are part of homeownership, whether you want to cover scuffs or experiment with new colors:

Paintbrushes and Rollers: Keep a few different sizes for painting various surfaces.



SECURE YOUR SAVINGS

The Residential 30% Federal Solar Energy Tax Credit will be eliminated after December 31, 2025.

ACT NOW! Lock In Your Build Date!
Contracts must be signed by September 30, 2025
to have your array built by December 31, 2025.

Eagle Point
SOLAR
Bringing you the SUN®

Start here: EaglePointSolar.com/solar-analysis

HQ: 2400 Kerper Blvd, Dubuque, Iowa • P: (563) 582.4044 • E: sales@eaglepointsolar.com



Paint Tray: For easy use with rollers.

Touch-Up Paint: Keep leftover paint from each room so you can match colors for small fixes.

8. Safety Gear

Maintenance tasks often involve risks, so protect yourself with:

Safety Glasses: Essential for eye protection when drilling, hammering, or using power tools.

Work Gloves: Protect your hands

from sharp edges, splinters, and dirt.

Dust Mask: Handy for tasks like sanding, painting, or cleaning up old insulation.

9. Flashlight or Work Light

Power outages or working in dark spaces will require a reliable flashlight or work light. LED flashlights offer bright, energy-efficient lighting, and a hands-free headlamp or work light can be especially helpful for repairs in tight spaces.

10. Basic Cleaning Supplies

Maintenance often overlaps with cleaning. Stock up on these essentials:

All-Purpose Cleaner: Use for most surfaces, including counters, cabinets, and appliances.

Microfiber Cloths: Great for cleaning and dusting without leaving streaks.

Bucket and Mop: For washing floors and handling spills.

11. Weatherproofing Supplies

For maintaining energy efficiency and comfort, it's worth having:

Weatherstripping: To seal doors and windows against drafts.

Foam Insulation Spray: For filling small gaps around plumbing, window frames, and electrical outlets.

Door Sweeps: Install on exterior doors to reduce drafts.

12. First Aid Kit

Minor injuries are common when doing home maintenance. A first aid kit with bandages, antiseptic wipes, and pain relievers is helpful for addressing small accidents on the spot.

Having these essential maintenance supplies on hand will make it easier to tackle a wide range of repairs and upkeep projects. Over time, you may find additional specialized tools or products that suit your needs, but this list will give you a solid foundation for maintaining your new home.




CALL US FOR YOUR RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL ELECTRICAL & LOW VOLTAGE NEEDS!

(563) 583-8835








Fall in Love with Outdoor Decor

Just because the temperatures cool doesn't mean the amount of time and attention you spend on your outdoor spaces should. Fall is the perfect time to add seasonal touches and decorations to the exterior of your home that not only improve curb appeal, but also amplify your personal style.

Consider these seasonal ideas for decorating your patios, porches and backyards.

Use Bold Autumn Colors

Orange is a go-to fall color, but other seasonal shades, such as burgundy, can be incorporated to complement those orangey tones of pumpkins. Think blankets, throw pillows, mums and faux leaves as accent items that can add fall hues to your home.

Plant Autumn Varietals

Potted plants are one of the quintessential elements of outdoor decor, and taking advantage of your favorite fall blooming plants – Nippon daisies, Oriental lilies, chrysanthemum and helienium, for example – can add seasonal greenery and fiery tones to your garden or planters.

Bring the Indoors Out

You can create beautifully designed spaces that you'll enjoy year-round by bringing the indoors outside. Coffee tables, weather-proof area rugs, throw pillows, hanging lighting and wicker furniture can be staples of fall outdoor living spaces that provide the same cozy feel as your living room.

Warm Up with a Fire Pit

Calming and on-trend, creating a DIY firepit – either in a safe spot in your yard or simply on a tabletop – using concrete blocks, a ceramic pot or copper bowl and some logs can serve as a perfect gathering place for fall nights.



String Some Lights Around Your Space

If you have an outdoor space that could use some ambience, a string or two of clear party lights or strategically hung lanterns can improve the look and feel of your patio or yard. Of course, you can also opt to light can-



1475 Associates Drive
Dubuque, IA 52002
563.557.9952
homeandfloorshow.com



kiba
STUDIOS
KITCHEN & BATH

LET US HELP YOU MAKE YOUR HOUSE A HOME

dles or repurpose leftover outdoor torches.

Welcome Guests with a Personalized Doormat

Adding a personalized, seasonal welcome mat can add some personality to your porch as a simple way to supplement function with a touch of style. With a range of options typically available, swapping it out seasonally can keep your front door fresh.

Hang a Leafy Wreath

While lush green wreaths work many months out of the year, autumn

is an opportunity to string together red, orange and gold hues that can often be found in yards as well. Simply pick up some faux leaves at a craft store – or pick them up from your yard for an even more natural look – and attach to a wooden or metal wreath frame then hang with some fall-themed ribbon or rustic twine.

Background information for this article was provided by eLivingtoday.com.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images



Whether you're replacing an existing door or outfitting a new home, Dubuqueland Door Co. has over **50 years** serving the Tri-States to help find the right choice.

Open and close your garage door anytime from anywhere.

Amarr

Call: 563.556.5702
Toll Free: 1.800.246.5812

Dubuqueland
DOOR CO.

14628 W. Ridge Lane
Dubuque, IA 52003

Visit: www.dubuquelanddoor.com
Email: doors@dubuquelanddoor.com



5 Simple Kitchen UPGRADES That Save You Time

Summer is here and the warm weather is the perfect excuse to spend time outdoors doing what you enjoy with the people you love. To maximize your time for relaxation and enjoyment, it's a smart idea to simplify daily tasks.

For example, simple kitchen upgrades that streamline cooking and cleaning can save you time to better enjoy your well-earned summer vacation. Summer is ideal for home renovations, big or small. The risk of weather delays is low, and multiple holiday sales make it the perfect time to purchase something you've been saving for. Plus, you'll be thanking yourself when fall and winter hosting picks back up.

Don't know where to start? Check out these five simple kitchen upgrades.

1. Organizational Items and Systems

Taking time to revamp your kitchen with organizational items and systems can streamline your kitchen routine. Look at your space and see where you can add shelves, drawer dividers and pantry organizers to create designated spaces for every kitchen item. Kitchen organization will allow you to quickly find what you need when you need it and help you maintain a clutter-free environment.



2. Touchless Technology

Touchless kitchen faucet technology is a time-saving innovation that cuts down on cleaning and makes everyday tasks easier so you can spend more days in the sun. Most models simply require placing your hand near the faucet, tapping the faucet surface with your wrist or forearm or using standard handle activation to stop and start the flow of water. Touch-free activation helps keep your faucet clean, even when your hands aren't.

3. Undercabinet Lighting

Installing undercabinet lighting is an easy way to enhance the functionality and ambiance of your kitchen. Choose LED light strips that are energy-efficient and easy to install. Not only will this simple upgrade add a touch of sophistication to your kitchen, but it will also create a well-lit environment for all your culinary adventures.

4. Workstation Kitchen Sink

Upgrade your kitchen sink to a workstation model designed for versatility and daily kitchen tasks. Most models create a multi-functional space that reduces counter clutter by allowing you to work right over the sink.

Their built-in ledges provide plenty of space for food prep, washing and drying, all in one convenient location. Whether you are washing pots and pans after hosting, filling vases for cut flowers from the garden or rinsing sandy items from a day at the beach, a workstation sink has all the space you need.

5. Change Hardware

Want a quick and simple way to elevate your kitchen and refresh your style this summer? Swap out your hardware! Look at the handles and knobs on your cabinets and drawers and think about what colors and finishes speak to your vision of the ideal kitchen. Opt for modern, stylish handles and knobs that will stand the test of time and enhance the aesthetic appeal of your kitchen.

Savor the joys of summer by incorporating these five simple but smart kitchen upgrades. The time you spend now creating a more efficient home environment will give you more time to create summer memories that will last a lifetime.



Residential/Commercial
Licensed & Insured!
"The contractor
you can trust!"

A+ rating

CONSTRUCTION

New Home Construction
Remodeling • Additions
Decks • Windows • Doors
Siding • Kitchens • Baths
Handyman Repairs

Call Today for a FREE ESTIMATE!

563-213-7070

Since 1968

BIECHLER

ELECTRIC, INC.

563-583-5366

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • RESIDENTIAL • FARMS

OUTDOOR LIGHTING - NEW WIRING
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
CALL DARYL

7762 Wild Nest Lane Dubuque, IA 52003

MATT BREINER CONSTRUCTION

- Interior Remodeling •
- Kitchens • Garages •
- Decks • Additions •
- Bathrooms •
- New Home Construction •

Over 30 years experience.
Licensed & Insured. Free Estimates.
Call Matt 563-542-0266

TRI-STATE HOME TRENDS ADVERTISERS

Becwar Tile & Marble.....	4
Cedar Cross Overhead Door.....	5
Dubuqueland Door	20
Dupaco.....	10
DuTrac Community Credit Union.....	6
Eagle Point Solar.....	17
Fidelity Bank	1
Gateway Appliance.....	11
Germaine Electric	18
Home + Floor Show	19
Iverson Construction	15
Mountaintop Stoneworks	7
Dubuque Home Show.....	Back Cover
Stateline Solar.....	14
Westphal & Company	8
Widmeier Furniture & Flooring.....	Inside Front Cover

FREE ADMISSION!

DUBUQUE HOME SHOW

**SEP
12-14**

**GRAND RIVER
CENTER**

**500 Bell St, Dubuque, IA
52001**

Friday: 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday: 11:00am - 4:00pm

More info call (319) 666-HOME or visit
DubuqueHomeShow.com



EXHIBITOR
LIST & MORE!



**SCAN
ME!**

