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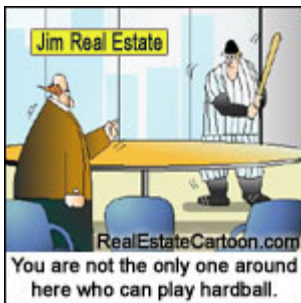
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Volume 55

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**Fun Fact:**

There are approximately 1,319,872,109 people on the Internet.



Randall Brennan's

# NEWSLETTER

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## Green trends for 2012 home remodeling

(ARA) - For some homeowners, remodeling projects are regular occurrences to keep their homes looking fresh. Sometimes, that means smaller changes like a new coat of paint or changing a light fixture. Other times, more substantial changes are needed. Determining those changes can be a challenge, but looking at the potential return on investment is a great way to prioritize.

Bathroom remodeling offers a 68.7 percent return on investment, according to a National Association of Realtors survey. One way to add value to a bathroom remodel is to pick bathroom fixtures that are more efficient than what you currently have installed. Americans are going green in many areas of life. Bathroom fixtures are no different. Here are three reasons why you should consider going green with your bathroom modeling project:

Products may be outdated. Toilets made before 1994 use anywhere from 3.5 gallons to 8 gallons per flush, while new EPA WaterSense labeled high-efficiency toilets can work on a modest 1.28 gallons per flush. Look at the underside of the tank lid - the date of manufacture is often stamped into the porcelain.

If you replace a typical 2.5 gallons per minute showerhead with a TOTO high-efficiency Trilogy Showerhead, you will experience the same luxurious shower, yet consume a responsible 14 gallons, saving 20 percent of the water used by older models.

Even something like a faucet can contribute to water savings. TOTO's Silas Widespread Lavatory Faucet is a WaterSense labeled lavatory faucet that consumes a responsible 1.5 gallons per minute without sacrificing an ounce of performance. Its design has a classic contemporary elegance with a graceful, curved spout.

Be a trendy homeowner. A whopping 68% of builders surveyed by the National Association of Home Builders say that energy-saving technologies and features including low-E windows, energy-efficient appliances, and LED lighting will be common along with other green features like engineered wood products, and water-saving plumbing fixtures such as dual-flush toilets and low-flow faucets by 2015. Start now and you'll be ahead of the curve.

- Courtesy of ARA Content

## Word of the Month:

Studies have shown that your income and wealth is directly related to the depth of your Vocabulary. Here is this month's word so you can impress your friends.

### acumen

\uh-KYOO-muhn; *noun*

1. Quickness of perception or discernment; shrewdness shown by keen insight.

### Example:

With Leo's rare combination of editorial acumen and business know-how, he might have become a publishing giant had he not permitted his drinking and gambling to hold him back.

## Quotes to Live by:

Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy.

—By Norman Vincent Peale

## Say What?

### A Blessing in Disguise:

Something good that isn't recognized at first.

## Home how-to for the simple fixer

(ARA) - Eventually, that household project that you have been putting off cannot be avoided any longer. But if you're like most homeowners, you will quickly give up on the DIY route and settle for something less daunting, like calling in a professional. Before you sell yourself short, consider following some of these simple DIY do's and don'ts to make tackling your home improvement project a little more manageable and affordable.

Do recognize your limits - It's OK if you can't handle the entire kitchen remodel on your own. Identify what components you can tackle solo before getting quotes for the project. Handling things like paint jobs and new cabinet hardware, can help bring down overall costs. Also, it's OK to ask a friend or family member for help - two hands are better than one.

Don't underestimate the power of glue. From installing tile backsplashes and in-wall cabinets to sealing gutters and downspouts, high-performance adhesives are a must-have for every home. So forget about tossing that broken lamp to the curb or replacing that loose drawer handle. A little glue goes a long way.

Accessories are the way to achieve a big impact for not much money in the living room. Replace old throw pillows with new, brightly patterned ones. Switch out wall decor with new pieces. Cover up worn wooden floors or shabby carpeting with an elegant area rug. It's possible to change several accessories and still bring your costs in under the \$100 mark.

Do develop a mental picture - Before rushing into home projects, take the time to really envision what you want out of the renovation or update. Is the goal to make your kitchen more modern? Are you looking to maximize space in the bathroom? Pictures can help bring these goals to life. Stock up on magazines and pull out any photos that capture the essence of your project.

Keep in mind that you won't do yourself any favors by shrugging off advice or not planning in advance. Remodeling industry professionals report that between 25 and 30 percent of their work comes from fixing DIY debacles. While there are sure to be a few hiccups along the way, you will discover a new sense of pride and empowerment once your project is completed.

—Courtesy of ARA Content-

**Movie Trivia:** What 1994 movie hit featured cameos by JFK, LBJ and George Wallace?

- a. Pulp Fiction
- b. Little Women
- c. Black Beauty
- d. Forest Gump

CALL ME NOW AT 303-909-2365

**Would you like to know how much your neighbor's home listed for?**

Maybe you're just curious. Or maybe you want to know how much equity you have in your home. Or perhaps you are thinking of selling soon and want to know how much your home increased in value. Either way, I can help...No "sales pitches" or runarounds. Just give me a call **303-909-2365** and I will give you the facts.

**Economy at a Glance:**

Data Series	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012
<a href="#"><u>Unemployment Rate</u></a>	8.5	8.3	N/A
<a href="#"><u>Change in Payroll Employment</u></a>	203	243	N/A
<a href="#"><u>Average Hourly Earnings</u></a>	23.25	23.29	N/A
<a href="#"><u>Consumer Price Index</u></a>	0.0	0.2	N/A
<a href="#"><u>Producer Price Index</u></a>	-0.1	0.1	N/A

Information from [http://www.bls.gov/eag/ea\\_g.us.htm](http://www.bls.gov/eag/ea_g.us.htm)

**US Population Clock**  
313,114,415  
**World Population Clock**  
6,997,960,548

-March 2, 2012

**What's the best floor for your high-traffic home?**

(ARA) - From high-heeled shoes to dog paws and kitchen spills, your home's flooring faces tough challenges every day. When it comes to choosing a floor that will stand up to today's hyper-active households, experts recommend laminate for its low-maintenance, realistic beauty and durability. But savvy shoppers should keep in mind that not all laminates are created equal, especially when it comes to long-term performance. To find the best floor for your high-traffic home, look for the following.

Flooring is exposed to numerous factors that can wear, tear, scuff and dull its surface over time. For this reason, it's important to select a laminate with a high level of surface protection.

Of course, a floor's performance is much more than surface deep. Choose a laminate with a high-density core (10 mm total product thickness is ideal) and attached underlayment. Not only will these premium materials offer greater stability and a more realistic sound underfoot, but installation will be easier and faster.

Laminate is the perfect material for do-it-yourselfers wanting a weekend project because most install with planks that literally "click" together. Look for laminates that offer locking systems that don't require glue for installation that's both easy and secure.

The best laminates combine both brawn and beauty. There are laminate styles that reflect today's most popular design trends and complement any room of the home - from multi-hued slates of whitewashed pines and rustic oaks to rich cherries - even the exotic beauty of tropical-inspired decors. Make sure that the laminate you choose features ultra-realistic texturing and natural wood grain looks - as well as a surface layer that provides superior clarity.

A quality laminate will offer the confidence and protection of a limited lifetime residential warranty against wear, fading and stains. If you want to be certain that a laminate offers superior durability, choose one that also is warranted for light commercial usage. With proper installation and simple maintenance, you can be assured the floor will look "like new" for years to come.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-

## Food Fact:

- Apples are more efficient than caffeine in keeping people awake in the mornings!

-Coca Cola was originally green.

## Weird Laws:

*Kentucky*- It is illegal to fish with a bow and arrow.

*Colorado*- Car dealers may not show cars on a Sunday.

*Arkansas*-Alligators may not be kept in bathtubs.

*Idaho*- You may not fish on a camel's back.

## U.S.A. Facts

- New York has more ski areas than any state in the United States.

- The Statue of Liberty weighs 225 tons.

**And...**Whether you are thinking of buying, selling, or financing real estate, or stop by and say "hi", I'd love to hear from you...

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References:-aracontent.com,  
copyright 1996-2009, ARAcontent-  
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Usacitiesonline.com  
Dictionary.com

## Prepare now for a dream summer outdoor living space

(ARA) - Beat the winter blues by taking the first steps to create a summer backyard oasis. By preparing now, you'll be ready to install - and enjoy - a dream deck once warmer weather arrives.

Create a distinctive design - Start thinking about the style, shape and color scheme of your outdoor space. Are your tastes country cottage or mostly modern? Do you desire a basic deck or one that spans multiple levels and wraps around your home? Now is the ideal time to order product samples and seek online tools that allow you to virtually experiment with different products, finishes and layouts.

Plan a secure and stable substructure - Long before any deck boards are installed, it's crucial to create a strong base for your outdoor living space. A steel substructure, such as new Trex Elevations, will increase the value of your deck, while improving overall appearance. This ultra-durable deck-framing system manufactured of dual-coated, galvanized steel will not warp, twist, split or decay - unlike traditional wood substructures - and its stability creates a remarkably flat deck surface. Trex Elevations' 25-year limited warranty offers additional peace of mind.

"Homeowners often don't realize that much of a deck's performance and aesthetics depend on what's underneath," says Adam Zambanini, vice president of marketing for Trex, the world's largest manufacturer of wood-alternative decking and railing. "A high-quality substructure offers a strong return on investment and adds years to the life of a deck. Just remember to build this additional - and essential - step into your project timeline."

Research local contractors - One of the most important parts of planning an outdoor living space is selecting the right contractor. Look for a professional who's been specially trained to install the type of products you've chosen. Inquire about business licenses, liability insurance and length of experience. Request references - and make sure to call them.

Upgrade outdoor furniture - Take a look at the outdoor furniture currently stored in your garage for the winter. Before warm temperatures hit, consider replacing old, worn-out tables and chairs with stylish and durable wood-alternative pieces that won't rot, crack or splinter and never need to be sanded, stained or painted. If you're not ready to invest in all new furniture, update upholstery and cushions with colorful, weather-resistant fabrics.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-