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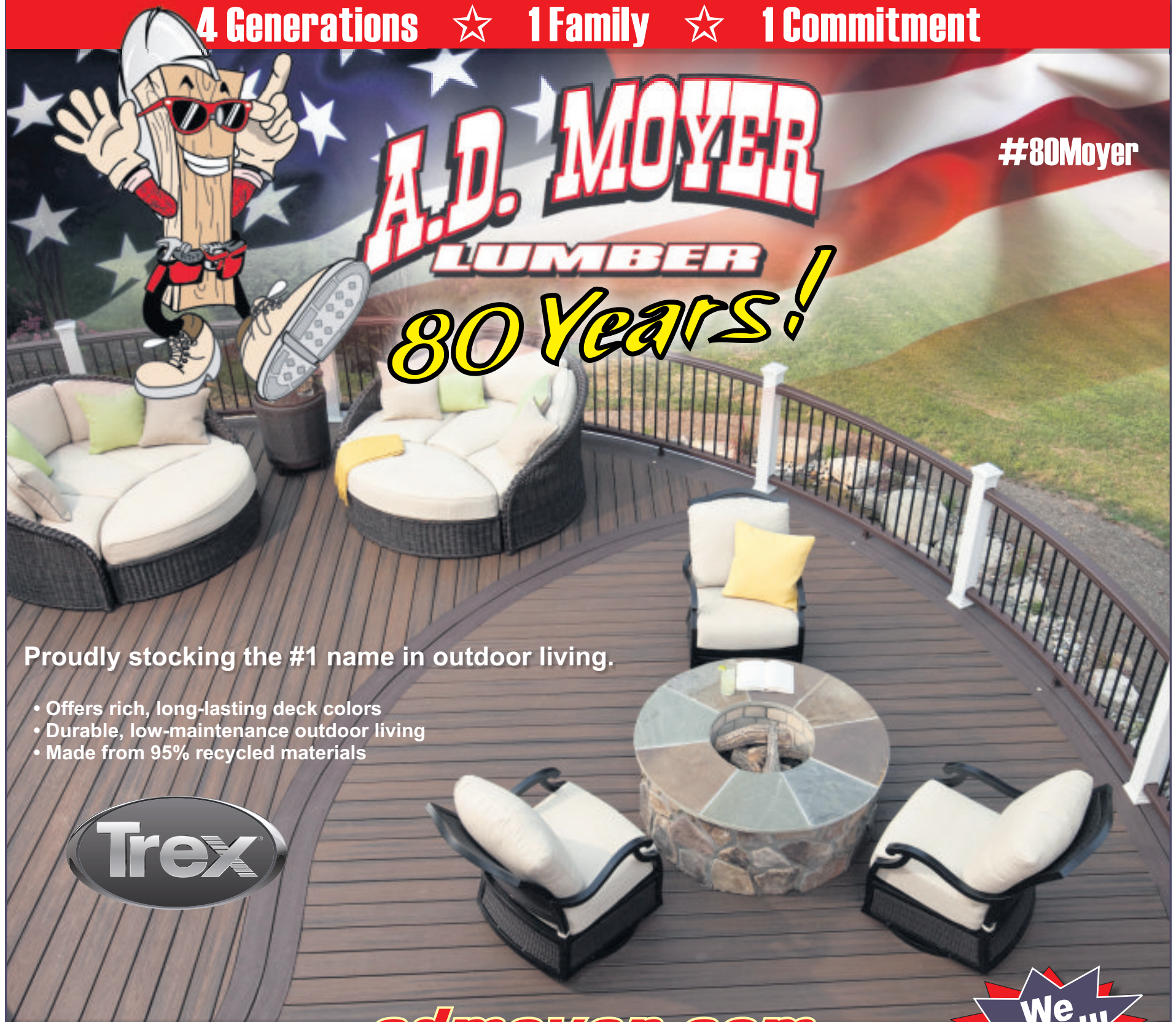


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HOME IMPROVEMENT

MacHose Contracting is large enough to serve, small enough to care

Rick MacHose, owner of MacHose Contracting, has been serving the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas for the past 40 years.

We pride ourselves in excellent customer service and quality workmanship with results you can be proud of.

Don't have the budget to create the room of your dream? You can do it in stages as you have the money available. We are able to work within any budget to ensure

you get the home you've always wanted.

"The foundation of my business has been customer satisfaction. I strive, on each job, to satisfy my customer's needs," MacHose said. "I use all my own employees — no subcontractors. Most of my foremen have been with me for more than 15 years.

"I try to do all of the sales myself; if I can't make a sales call, one of my foremen will make

the call. Our prices are low, and our quality is high," he said.

"Take a look at some of the work we've done at www.machosecontracting.com. We do not use kits. All installations are custom made on site. Ask us how!"

Feel free to call at 610-530-8727 or email us today for an estimate!

We're large enough to serve — small enough to care!

Deck

FROM PAGE 2

be a recluse while reading a book or listening to music, an even different deck experience is best.

Make Your Deck Reflect Your Dining Style

Another important consideration is your dining needs. For some, a simple spot to park your grill is all you need. You prefer to dine indoors in the bug-free AC. For the grilling experts, a great grilling station and maybe a smoker with more counter surface area for prep is the ticket. And for the real pros who have serious food game, a full-blown kitchen, built-in countertop seating, pergola roof cover, outdoor fireplace, wood-fired pizza oven and more work best.

Consider Traffic Patterns

Walking pathways to the different designed areas of your deck should be comfortable and make sense. Designed areas such as cooking, dining, relaxing or reading, fire pits or fire tables, gaming areas and more often won't take full shape until all of your furniture and amenities are in place. Take advantage of free computer design for your deck ahead of time to better visualize these areas. Make certain that you allow ample room for chairs around your dining table, end tables or a coffee table in the lounging area, potted plants, children's water tables or sand box in the play area, etc.

Blend Your Deck Into Your Landscape

Your deck is the connecting bridge from the

interior of your home to nature. Don't stop your design ingenuity at the bottom of your deck steps. Your deck shouldn't just dump your guests into your grass in the backyard. Flow the design into a complimentary and functional hardscape landing or full patio, maybe with a fire pit, and surrounded by attractive landscaping. A pergola, in addition to being attractive, provides shade and a great spot to hang plants to soften the area. Consider stepping off onto a large, beautiful slab of granite. From there, create a narrower path of stepping stones or concrete pavers leading to a garden, pavilion or other backyard feature. Consider wide steps. A 5- or 6-foot wide step is large enough to incorporate potted flowers or built-in plant boxes without impeding safe navigation.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Longacre a leading heating, air conditioning contractor

The Longacre Co., located at 602 Main St. in Bally, Pa., is one of the leading heating and air conditioning contractors in the area.

For over 90 years, since 1922, Longacre has provided high-quality installations and service to residential and commercial customers.

The Longacre Co. can provide the homeowner with a simple replacement of an older system to a complete design and installation of a high-efficiency multi-zoned system. We also can provide the commercial and industrial customer with complete service and installation of large rooftop sys-

tems and chilled water systems.

Longacre offers a variety of well-known brands of heating and cooling systems. Whether your system requires gas, oil, electric or a heat pump, we can assure you it will be sized and installed correctly. We understand the importance of a properly sized system. Our products and services are guaranteed to provide you the comfort and peace of mind you expect.

Our installers and service technicians are factory trained in all of the latest technology. You can be sure your system will be serviced and maintained by knowledgeable, efficient

and courteous personnel with an emphasis on providing you with complete satisfaction. Longacre has worked hard to earn its reputation as one of the best in the industry.

Whether you are in need of a replacement of your heating or cooling system or planning a new home or an addition to your existing home, call The Longacre Co. for a free professional estimate. Our sales and installation teams are ready to provide you with the design and professional installation you deserve.

Contact the Longacre Co. at 610-845-2261 or visit www.LongacreCo.com.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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KICKER

Top Three Kitchen Advancements for Today's Technicurean Home Chefs

Brandpoint

Today's home chefs are smart and sophisticated. They want the latest tools to simplify their lives and make their culinary dreams a reality. This year's Kitchen and Bath Industry Show, North America's premier industry event, highlighted the top kitchen design innovations, including smart technology that helps the modern home chef achieve professional-level results in their own kitchen. Other top themes included sustainability and ways integrated technology can improve food and drink preservation, plus overall wellness.

Here's what we learned:

1) Smarter appliances offer restaurant-worthy re-

sults

All that practice and preparation won't get the best results without professional-grade appliances offering the ultimate in culinary precision. Today's home chefs want what professional kitchens provide, from multiple ovens to stovetop griddles and more. There's also a rise in progressive home chefs called "Technicureans" who are socially conscious consumers who are passionate about cooking as well as technological innovation. One of the luxury kitchen appliance brands that caters to these individuals, Signature Kitchen Suite, offers an industry-first 48-inch dual fuel pro range with built-in "sous vide" mo-

dality right on the cooktop, along with gas and induction. Its multiple cooking modalities and innovative technology earned the prestigious "Best of KBIS 2019" Gold Award.

The sous-vide cooking technique has been the go-to method of the world's best chefs for years. In sous-vide cooking, food is vacuum-sealed and submerged in water, then slow-cooked at a precise temperature to achieve perfect doneness, every time.

"Sous-vide was the exclusive domain of top chefs for a long time," said Mark Bittman, food author, educator and host of the True to Food film series. "Now, there's sous-vide in a pro range for the home."

2) The next generation of wine storage

Wine connoisseurs and home chefs alike recognize the importance of proper wine storage. At this year's KBIS, new 18- and 24-inch integrated column wine refrigerators captured another top award from the show - the National Kitchen and Bath Association's inaugural "30s Choice Award." Based on new "Wine Cave" technology these new wine refrigerators from Signature Kitchen Suite are designed to significantly reduce vibration - a major factor that can cause chemical imbalances affecting wine quality, flavor, aroma and



texture - in addition to minimizing temperature fluctuations, limiting light exposure and locking in humidity.

The refrigerators feature the True Sommelier app, powered by Wine Ring, helping wine collectors manage their personal cellars in a truly modern way.

"There are a million wines in the world, so which ones should be in your wine cellar and

which should accompany your dinner with friends tonight?" asked Pam Dillon, CEO and co-founder of Wine Ring. "Wine Ring makes recommendations based on your personal ratings, using its patented software - the first of its kind in cellar technology."

3) Integrated technology can improve overall wellness

"We're continuing to see a convergence of technologies and design trends come together in the kitchen," said Brian Pagel, senior vice president, Emerald Expositions/National Kitchen and Bath Association, producers of the annual KBIS show. "High-end cooking is of growing interest to consumers, and that will only continue."

In fact, leading appliance manufacturers now offer a variety of smart cooking platform inte-

grations, including Innit, SideChef, Tovola and Drop, illustrating an emphasis on effortless meal preparation - whether it's step-by-step guided cooking or automated precision cooking programs proposing better nutrition.

"Home chefs can now customize meals that fit their lifestyles and dietary preferences, all at their fingertips," said Kevin Brown, CEO and co-founder of Innit. "Paired with the culinary precision of their appliances, we work to elevate the at-home meal prep and cooking experience."

In today's kitchens, luxury and intuitive smart technology merge to produce new capabilities that were once limited to the pros, proving that better cooking is possible through better thinking.

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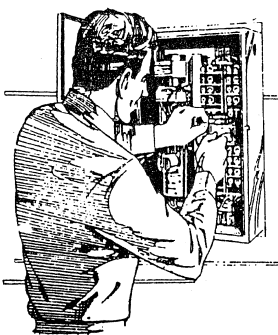
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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Kuzan's True Value Hardware has everything you need

Kuzan's True Value Hardware is not an ordinary hardware store.

Kuzan's was started in 1953 as a storm window business by Andrew Kuzan. In 1957, Andrew and his wife, Marie, expanded the business with an addition to the store and started selling variety items.

In 1961, the store was expanded again adding another 3,000 square feet, making the retail sales area a total 6,000 square feet, with 6,000 square feet of storage on the bottom level. Andrew and Marie lived on the second floor above the store and also used some of

that level for storage.

In 1976, they built the present store, which has 22,000 square feet of retail space on 8 acres of land, selling True Value Hardware products. An additional 8,000 square feet of space was added in 1979, expanding into the lawn and garden department.

Our growth continued when Dennis and Ronald Heffner purchased the business in 1996 when the Kuzans wanted to retire. In 1997, we added our outdoor furniture, backyard sheds, Amish hand-crafted furniture and crafts. In 1999, we added Just Ask Rental

to our line of services.

Click on Rentals on our website and see Kuzan's True Value Hardware extensive line of equipment rentals for all types of DIY projects.

Today, Kuzan's True Value Hardware Store and Rental Center is known for having the best selection of hard-to-find hardware items and the largest gift selection, which include Ertl Toys, Breyer Horses, candles, toys and Amish-made furniture. We pride ourselves with providing our customers with excellent service, and if we don't have it in stock, we will try hard to find what you are

looking for.

At Kuzan's True Value Hardware Store, we recognize that exceptional service and innovation are critical to our success. Our many services are an example of the quality service and commitment our customers have come to expect from us. Our commitment is to "help you get the job done."

Even in today's economy, we bring to our customers the best products available at the lowest prices. Our staff has a wealth of expertise in all home improvement areas, garden equipment, tools, rental equipment and

storage sheds, plus a gift shop with unique items that are unmatched by our competitors. We have everything you need. If we don't have it, we'll find it for you.

We proudly serve customers in the Reading, Pa., area, including Bally, Bechtelsville, Bernville, Birdsboro, Boyertown, Centerport, Fleetwood, Hamburg, Kenhorst, Kutztown, Laureldale, Leesport, Lenhartsville, Lyons, Mohnton, Moun Penn, Shoemakersville, Sinking Spring, Strausstown, Topton, Werner-ville, West Reading, Womelsdorf and Wyoming.

Our team of professionals is always ready to assist with their expert knowledge of tools and craftsmanship. Our products and service are unbeatable. We get you what you need for your job — quickly, reliably and at the lowest price — and we guarantee it all.

Kuzan's True Value Hardware Store and Rental Center is located at 1069 Pottsville Pike (Route 61) in Shoemakersville, PA 19555. Our hours are Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact us at 610-562-7186 or visit www.KuzansHardware.com.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Keep your gutters debris free with Keystone Gutter Helmet

Keep leaves, pine needles and other debris out of your gutters. Ensure that your home's gutters remain free-flowing. Deter rodent, bird, mosquito and other harmful infestations. Stay safe by staying off that shaky ladder!

How Gutter Helmet Works

Simply surface tension. Gutters become clogged

when leaves and debris fall onto your roof and accumulate in the gutters. When it rains, debris in your gutters causes your downspouts to clog and your gutters to overflow. This causes rot and damage to your home, lawn, basement and landscaping.

Gutter Helmet-patented nose-forward design prevents leaves and debris from entering your gutter system. Your Gutter Hel-

met system channels rainwater around the nose-forward panel and through a precise 3/8-inch horizontal slit. In turn, the principles of gravity and surface tension combine to allow rainwater to flow into your gutters and leaves and debris to fall harmlessly to the ground below.

Approved by Major Roofing**Manufacturers**

Both Gutter Helmet and our installation procedures have been approved by major roofing manufacturers. Your roof and roof warranty are safe with us.

Gutter Helmet Installation

Gutter Helmet is custom-fitted to your home by trained installers who

clean, seal, check and adjust the alignment of your gutter system, as needed. Gutter Helmet is expertly installed with heavy gauge reinforced support brackets, (several models available, each designed for an expert, custom installation.)

Gutter Helmet panels are individually prepared and custom-fitted over your full-sized gutters. Panels are then securely installed under or over shingles, de-

pending on a professional dealer inspection of your home. Upon completion and final inspection, the site is restored to its original condition. In most cases, installation can be completed in just one day!

Call Keystone Gutter Helmet at 610-372-4383, or visit www.KeystoneGutterHelmet.com to schedule an appointment or for more information.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Setting up your home office for efficiency

Brandpoint

So, you've been running your business from your home for some time now, and with the busy holiday season upon us, you find yourself

overwhelmed, stressed and your office is a mess. When running a business, there are so many things you need to think about to maximize efficiency, from having a clean setup to ensuring that you are well equipped with the supplies you need to get things done.

First things first. To help increase productivity and get things started, it's time to tidy up your space. Start by going through any old files you may have and determining whether you really need them, then get rid of things that no longer are relevant. Next, start organizing and getting your layout set. Arrange your space in a way that is functional and will ensure that you are able to access the things you need easily, like your phone and computer.

Once your office is cleaned up, it's time to take a step back and ensure that your office is equipped with the latest equipment and stocked up on supplies. Your technology and hardware are key components to running things efficiently, so making sure your computer and pe-

ripherals are up to date will be crucial. A printer is a critical component in your home office setup and it's important that it is compatible with the latest technology and that there is enough ink to fulfill your business needs.

When it comes to smoothly running your business, there are many things you need to help maximize productivity, and replenishing office supplies should not be a worry. As it is, the holidays are a stressful time, and buying office supplies is an added stress you don't need on your list. Say you need to print an important document for a meeting and you're alerted that you are low on ink, but you are completely out, and you don't have time to get to the store to replace it. According to a new independent study from YouGov, 57 percent of Americans find that it's a pain to buy new cartridges for a printer. That is where a replenishment service comes in.

Having your items delivered right to your doorstep will help alleviate the time it would take to do this on

your own and eliminate the guesswork in knowing when you need to stock up on supplies. In fact, over one-third of Americans think that ink and toner replenishment is a good idea. All you need to do is enroll in the service and you are guaranteed to get your items right when you need them. You don't even have to know what model your printer is and what kind of cartridge it takes. Services like Amazon Dash, Brother Refresh and Best Buy Easy Replenish allow customers to quickly and easily replace their ink and toner without having to think about it.

"Running out of ink is always frustrating but it's especially infuriating when it happens at an inconvenient time, like when you are in a rush to get a print out," said Rafi Haqqani, Marketing Director, Brother Genuine Supplies and Auto-Fulfillment at Brother. "Through our Refresh service, we are helping office users run their business more efficiently by removing the bottlenecks and stress that comes with running out of ink and toner."



- ✓ Keep leaves, pine needles, and other debris out of your gutters.
- ✓ Ensure that your home's gutters remain free-flowing.
- ✓ Deter rodent, bird, mosquito, and other harmful infestations.
- ✓ Stay safe by staying off that shaky ladder!

Are you sick of climbing a ladder to clean your gutters?

Call 610-372-4383
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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Five smart ideas to refresh your deck

Brandpoint

As seasons turn, your focus begins to shift to the outdoors. Your deck or patio becomes your new living room - an ideal setting for memorable moments with friends and family. If you look at these spaces and long for a refresh, the time to start planning is now. You have options, and many you can do yourself with minimal effort.

To start, if you don't have a deck or patio, research materials carefully before making an investment. One prevalent building trend involves making the smart choice toward natural, environmentally friendly materials that will never end up in landfills. As such, more homeowners are choosing Real Cedar because it is naturally re-

sistant to rot, decay and insects. It's low-maintenance and easy to work with, being durable yet lightweight, laying straight and taking fasteners easily. Plus, nothing looks, feels or smells quite like cedar.

To refresh your deck with style and functionality, consider these five trending outdoor-living projects:

Planter boxes: If you want to add beauty and functionality to your deck, construct planter boxes and put them in sunny spaces. From small boxes that house herb gardens to larger boxes that allow vegetables to thrive, you can have a bounty of fresh flavors right outside your door. No need for a garden plot! Planter box designs come in a variety of sizes and can be built low to the ground or at waist height for easy tending.

Outdoor sectionals: Built-in sectionals are becoming a focal point and favorite hangout spot on the deck. Perfectly set into a corner, these multi-directional couches can be built as large or small as you desire. Use Real Cedar for your project because it is pitch- and resin-free, so accepts and holds a wide variety of finishes beautifully so you can customize the look to your tastes. Finish with cushions for that decorator touch and you'll have your new favorite cozy outdoor corner.

Water features: As homeowners look to make their decks and patios a true retreat from the stress of everyday life, they want to add elements of Zen, which is why fountains and water features are becoming

DECK » PAGE 10



HOME IMPROVEMENT

Keeler Service Center marks 30+ years of quality service

Keeler Service Center Inc., located in the center of downtown Telford, Pa., is celebrating over three decades of quality vehicle sales and service to the Bucks-Mont area.

Started in 1980, Keeler Service Center is a family centered business that provides auto and light truck mechanical repairs.

In 2005, Keeler Service Center became an authorized dealer for Central Boiler, maker of classic outdoor wood furnaces. This greener alternative to home heating can cut your energy bill substantially

through the burning of seasoned or semi-seasoned wood or pellets. Central Boiler — a safe, efficient outdoor wood furnace that can provide 100 percent of your heating needs. Central Boiler manufactures and distributes the Classic Edge Outdoor Wood Furnace, an outdoor wood-fired hydronic heater that heats multiple buildings, hot tubs, pools, greenhouses, domestic water and more.

While burning a wood stove indoors can mean many problems, there is an alternative — the Classic Edge

outdoor wood furnace from Central Boiler. Also known as an outdoor wood boiler, this outdoor wood-fired hydronic heater eliminates the problems associated with indoor burning and allows you to get even more benefits from wood heat. This outdoor wood furnace can actually improve the indoor environment in your home or business while eliminating the time-consuming chore of tending a traditional wood stove.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Pottstown Roller Mills supplies everything you need to maintain your property

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condition year-round with our wide variety of mulch and fertilizer products you're looking for. Bagged and bulk mulch is available to you, as well as the chemical and organic fertilizers you need to keep your lawn lush. Take a look below at some of the products available to you: Double-shredded bark, Right-Dress Root Mulch, Black-Dye Mulch and Mushroom Soil.

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lime, granular lime, pulverized lime, pre-emergent crab grass killer, Fertrell organic fertilizers or Lebanon lawn fertilizer. You'll have the green lawn and lush garden you desire. If you're looking for vegetable and field seeds to produce a great crop yield,

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looking for a particular type of gravel? We have many different types of gravel and stone — Maryland gravel, river rock, white crushed stone, red crushed stone and gray driveway stone.

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Deck

FROM PAGE 9

ing so popular. New decks are often built to incorporate these features, including pathways where water provides a calm ambiance. If a pond is too significant an undertaking, fountains provide a more affordable alternative that can be used in any size space.

Pergolas: These beautiful semi-shelters can be built in a number of useful configurations depending on how much shade you require, what you wish to situate beneath it (A dining set? Outdoor couches and chairs? Grilling equipment?) and whether you want to incorporate climbing plants. For complete project plans and instructions on how to make your own pergola over a weekend, visit www.realcedar.com. Lighting: When the sun goes down that doesn't mean the fun



should stop. Add lighting to extend the functionality and enjoy special moments under the stars on your deck or patio. Stair, railing and pathway lighting add a necessary safety feature, while under-table lighting and deck-post sconces provide the perfect illumination for the space without being overwhelming.

For a touch of twinkle, add a few outdoor string lights in white, or for a more festive atmosphere, go for the color of your choice.

These five outdoor living ideas are sure to enhance any size deck or patio space. Make plans today so you can enjoy many seasons of fun outdoors with loved ones.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

SolarShield Retractable Awnings

The SolarShield Retractable Awning is Toff's top-of-the-line model for outdoor mechanical sunshades. This remarkable shade is the only retractable lateral arm awning with a spring-loaded shoulder — designed to withstand the impact of strong winds, heavy rains

and intense storms.

The strength and durability of the SolarShield reduces impact on both the awning and your home, decreasing the potential of stress-related damage due to inclement weather. SolarShields come with manual and electronic retrac-

tion options, all of which are made from stainless steel hardware and cables. The three-to-one bevel gear makes for smooth manual operation, and light and durable aluminum frames are easy to manage by either hand or motor.

Water-resistant technology

In addition to the strong, corrosion-resistant frame, SolarShields feature tough acrylic fabrics designed to weather intense heat, sun, rain and even cold weather.

Toff uses solution-dyed

acrylic fabrics for SolarShield retractable awnings, fabrics known and tested for their color fastness, strength and stain resistance. This means the SolarShield awnings are up to 20 percent more water repellent than competitors and come with a 10-year

limited warranty on fabric. Toff's SolarShield comes with a limited lifetime warranty for all non-corrosive parts.

Call Keystone Gutter Helmet at 610-372-4383 today for more information about Toff's SolarShield retractable awning.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

How to add a bathroom in an 'impossible' space

Brandpoint

When it comes to real estate, kitchens and bathrooms typically sell houses. While you may not have enough money for a kitchen remodel, adding a bathroom can be a more affordable way to enhance your property and catch buyers' attention.

By adding another bathroom, you immediately increase your chances of your home getting noticed. Technology makes it simple for buyers to search properties of interest by their designated criteria. One of those is "minimum number of bathrooms." By adding to that amount in your listing, you'll be getting in front of that many more potential buyers.

Adding bathrooms to difficult spaces

Bathrooms increase a home's value and add to its functionality - both elements that buyers desire. Homeowners researching opportunities to add a bathroom to their property pre-sale consider enhancing basements, garage slabs and other spaces so contractors can add plumbing systems with conventional in-floor drainage.

If you have a space that

would be ideal for a bathroom but appears to be impossible due to the need to break through concrete or other types of flooring, there's another solution to consider: above-floor, macerating plumbing systems. Developed a half century ago in Europe, these systems are still relatively unknown in the U.S.; however, they offer a vast opportunity for homeowners.

Macerating systems from makers like Saniflo (Saniflo.com) reduce waste and paper from the toilet and send it under high pressure through piping directly into the septic or sewer system. No waste is stored, and the systems are low-cost compared to traditional plumbing. Systems are discreet, quiet and open the possibilities of affordable additions in less time.

Here are five "impossible" home improvement scenarios where above-floor plumbing may be the solution:

Main floor on-slab construction

Owners of slab-built homes may hesitate to cut into the concrete foundation to accommodate conventional plumbing. No matter how careful a contractor is

when cutting into concrete, problems can arise - from unexpected obstructions to poor-fitting patches and even stress cracks. Above-floor plumbing systems eliminate the need to cut into the slab, so integrity isn't compromised.

Basements

If your home is built with a basement, bathroom additions can be problematic due to concrete and existing plumbing limitations. Above-floor, macerating plumbing is a smart solution for fast, cost-effective bathroom additions in lower-level rooms.

Historic homes

Opening walls or floors to accommodate piping may jeopardize important historic elements, such as original wood flooring or plaster walls. Systems like Saniflo's macerating toilet and plumbing technology eliminate the need to cut through a floor to install new drainage, while minimizing the impact on walls as well. The system also fits easily into small areas like a closet or the dead space behind a stairway, meaning homeowners don't have to compromise the flow of their historic homes to add a bathroom.

Raised homes

Bayou and beach towns often boast charming raised homes. Adding a bathroom to the lowest floor of a raised

home can be problematic; conventional plumbing pipes may detract from the aesthetic value of the space beneath the home, which is often used for car ports,

porches and decks. Above-floor plumbing eliminates the need for unsightly pipes, so you can make a great first impression to potential buyers.



SolarShield Retractable Awnings



The SolarShield Retractable Awning is Toff's top-of-the-line model for outdoor mechanical sunshades. This remarkable shade is the only retractable lateral arm awning with a spring-loaded shoulder — designed to withstand the impact of strong winds, heavy rains, and intense storms.

The strength and durability of the SolarShield reduces impact on both the awning and your home, decreasing the potential of stress-related damage due to inclement weather. SolarShields come with manual and electronic retraction options, all of which are made from stainless steel hardware and cables. The three-to-one bevel gear makes for smooth manual operation and light and durable aluminum frames are easy to manage by either hand or motor.

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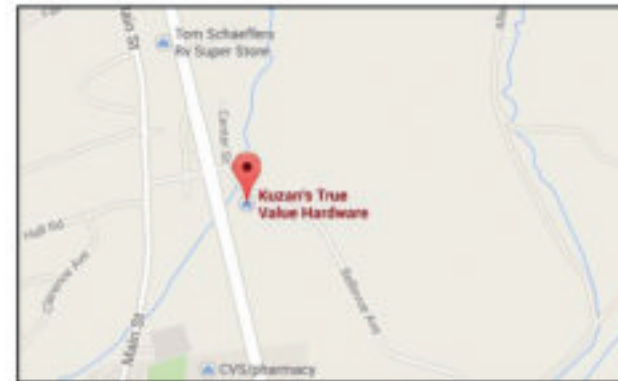
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