

fall home **IMPROVEMENT**

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Make Your Home the Heart of the Season with Stewart's Appliance

As the crisp autumn air arrives and families gather indoors, the heart of the home beats strongest in the kitchen. This fall, let Stewart's TV & Appliance in Elyria help you create a warm, inviting, and efficient home for the cozy months ahead.

For over 75 years, Stewart's has been the local name you can trust for top-quality appliances and exceptional service. As you plan your Thanksgiving feasts and holiday baking, imagine a kitchen that works for you. Picture a new range with the space and precision to cook every dish to perfection, or a spacious refrigerator ready to store all your festive ingredients. From state-of-the-art wall ovens to ultra-quiet dishwashers that make cleanup a breeze, Stewart's has everything you need to upgrade your kitchen for the season of gathering.

Fall also brings busier laundry rooms. With Stewart's wide selection of high-efficiency washers and dryers, you can tackle muddy sports uniforms and bulky sweaters with ease, saving you time and energy.

At Stewart's, you'll find more than just appliances; you'll find expert advice and a commitment to your satisfaction. Their knowledgeable team is ready to help you find the perfect fit for your home and budget, with attractive financing options and exclusive rebates available.

This autumn, invest in comfort, convenience, and creating lasting memories. Visit Stewart's TV & Appliance and discover how the right appliances can transform your home for the fall and all the seasons to come.

Stewart's TV & Appliance, 468 Cleveland St, Elyria. stewartappliance.com



Tips for winterizing exterior living areas



When the summer entertaining season draws to a close, homeowners need to ensure their outdoor living areas can handle weather that's right around the corner. Although

outdoor furniture and other items tend to be durable, the impact snow, wind and ice can have on them may lead to damage over time. That is why many homeowners take steps to winterize

their outdoor spaces and protect their belongings. Here's a look at how to prepare for the winter to come.

- **Furniture:** Cover or store furniture to protect it from the elements. Covering it with weather-proof covers can be adequate if storing items indoors is not possible.
- **Deep clean:** Items that will be covered or stored should be thoroughly cleaned prior to being removed from spaces for the season. Lingering dirt and moisture can cause damage.
- **Insulate and drain:** Don't risk damage to pipes, which can freeze and crack in the cold. Shut off the water supply to exterior faucets and drain water lines to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting. Use foam pipe insulation to prevent freezing and cover any exposed pipes.
- **Apply mulch:** After cleaning up garden debris, think about applying mulch to garden beds and cover tender plants to protect them from the weather.
- **Check gutters:** Be sure that gutters and downspouts are clear of leaves and any additional debris. If gutters

and downspouts are not cleaned, ice dams may form on the roof and cause water damage.

- **Inspect and repair:** Inspect walkways and driveways for any damage and make repairs now so water will not seep in and cause further issues with freeze-thaw cycles. Consider applying a sealant to protect surfaces from snow and ice.
 - **Pools and spas:** It's essential to follow the industry or manufacturer recommendations for closing down swimming pools and spas for the season. While covers may not be essential in all climates, covering can help prevent leaves and other debris from getting in the water. Water should be expelled from pipes and tubing to prevent freezing and bursting. If space allows, consider moving the pool pump indoors to prolong its longevity. Turn off the electricity to the outlet where the filter is plugged in.
- There may be additional, region-specific steps to winterize a property, but these pointers are a good starting point to protect outdoor spaces.



Ready to get your home ready for fall?

As the leaves begin to change and the crisp autumn air settles in, it's the perfect time to prepare your home for the coming winter. This season, let the Honey Dudes tackle your "honey-do" list, ensuring your home is safe, secure, and ready for the colder months ahead.

Fall is the ideal time to address those lingering exterior repairs. From fixing a loose fence post to repairing a damaged deck or patio, the Honey Dudes have you covered. Their skilled carpenters can

handle everything from minor touch-ups to major repairs, preventing small issues from becoming costly problems down the road.

Don't let a drafty door or window drive up your energy bills this winter. The Honey Dudes specialize in door and window replacement, helping you to improve your home's insulation and save money. They can also address any drywall or water damage repairs, ensuring your home's interior is as sound as its exterior.

This fall, don't let your to-do list get the best of you. Whether it's a long list of small tasks or a few larger projects, the Honey Dudes are your trusted partner for all your home repair and maintenance needs. With a wide range of services, including caulking, light fixture installation, and sink services, they are committed to providing quality workmanship and exceptional customer service.

Ready to get your home ready for fall? Contact the Honey Dudes today! Visit their website at callhoneydudes.com or give them a call at (440) 258-6136 to schedule your free estimate.



How to spot a mold infestation in your home

Homeowners know the work related to their homes is never done. Tasks ranging from routine maintenance to minor tweaks to large projects are part of homeownership.

Some of the work related to a home focuses on functionality, while other tasks might be all about aesthetic appeal. Potential health concerns related to a home also merit homeowners' attention. Mold is one such issue. Though it's impossible to pinpoint how much mold poses a health problem to a home's inhabitants, it's fair to suggest homeowners feel that no mold is ideal. According to the New York State Department of Health, exposure to indoor mold can cause nasal and sinus congestion; eye irritation marked by itchy, red and watery eyes; wheezing and difficulty breathing; cough and other types of throat irritation; skin irritation, including rash; and headache.

The potentially harmful consequences of a mold infestation inside a home

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Prep Your Home for the Unexpected

(Family Features) Severe weather events, including hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods and more, pose significant risks to property, productivity and well-being. However, taking actionable steps to protect your home and family this National Preparedness Month can ensure you're ready for weather-related emergencies. **Assess Your Home's Vulnerability**

Begin by understanding the specific risks your home may face. Different regions are prone to different types of natural disasters. Inspect your home's structure, including the foundation, roof and other critical components, to identify areas that could be susceptible to damage or need reinforcement to improve resiliency.

Create an Emergency Plan

Start by designating a meeting place outside your home where all family members know to gather in case of an evacuation. Keep detailed records of emergency contact numbers, escape routes and procedures for shutting off utilities like gas, water and electricity. Also keep copies of essential documents

and a list of emergency contacts in a safe, accessible location.

Protect Your Property Against Common Disasters

Depending on your location's risks, take steps such as installing storm shutters or impact-resistant windows to safeguard against hurricanes. Anchor heavy furniture to walls to prevent toppling during earthquakes. For flood-prone areas, elevate electrical appliances and install a sump pump to manage water levels. Regular maintenance of your home's exterior, including trimming trees and securing loose items, can also help mitigate damage from high winds. **Stockpile Essential Supplies**

Having a well-stocked emergency supply kit can be a lifesaver during a disaster. Basic items to include are water, non-perishable food, a first aid kit, flashlights, batteries and necessary medications. Store these supplies in a designated, easy-to-access area and regularly check expiration dates.

Visit eLivingtoday.com to find more advice to prep your home and family for the unexpected.

DID YOU KNOW?

Outdoor living spaces are a good investment for homeowners seeking to enjoy their home exteriors to the fullest, and that investment continues to pay dividends when homes are put on the market. According to Remodeling magazine's Cost vs. Value report, a number of outdoor living upgrades provide a sizable return on investment (ROI) when homeowners put their properties up for sale. According to the report, a wood deck could recoup up to 82 percent of the original cost at resale, meaning a job that comes in around the national average price of \$17,000 could net \$14,000 at resale. An outdoor kitchen could prove an even better investment in terms of ROI, as Remodeling magazine indicates such a feature nets a return between 55 percent and 200 percent at resale depending on the location of the home and the materials used for the project.

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Caring for Indoor Plants



(Family Features) Transforming your indoor space into a lush, green sanctuary starts with bringing in a bit of the outdoors by introducing houseplants to your living area. Once inside, though, it's important to properly care for them to keep your indoor garden thriving.

Understand Light Requirements

Light is a crucial element for indoor plant health. Different plants have varying light needs, and understanding these requirements is key to their survival. Low-light plants, such as snake plants and cast-iron plants, can thrive

in areas with minimal natural light.

Medium-light plants, like spider plants and ferns, prefer indirect sunlight and can be placed near windows with sheer curtains. High-light plants, including succulents and cacti, need direct sunlight for optimal growth.

Water Indoor Plants Correctly

It's important to understand the specific watering needs of each plant. Typically, it's best to let the top inch of soil dry out between waterings. Remember, it's better to underwater than overwater, as most plants can recover more

easily from slight dehydration than root rot. Consider using a moisture meter to accurately assess when your plants need water.

Choose the Right Pot and Soil

When choosing a pot, ensure it's slightly larger than the plant's current root system to allow for growth and features drainage holes to allow excess water to escape. Most indoor plants thrive in a well-draining potting mix that retains some moisture but doesn't become waterlogged. Specialty mixes are also available for specific plant types and can provide the ideal growing environment.

Deal with Common Problems

Even with the best care, plants can encounter problems. Common issues include pests like spider mites and aphids, which can be managed with natural insecticidal soap or neem oil. Yellowing leaves can indicate overwatering while brown leaf tips often signal underwatering or low humidity.

Research the specific needs of your plant species for best results and visit eLivingtoday.com for additional guidance.



The basics of window replacement projects

Windows in a home are easily taken for granted. Even though residents look through their windows every day, it's only when issues arise that people tend to give the windows much thought.

Even if windows may not be foremost on the minds of homeowners, they are a notable component of every home. New windows also can be an expensive addition to a home, so it benefits all homeowners to gain an understanding of window replacement projects before they start shopping around for new windows.

SEE PAGE 7

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WINDOWS FROM PAGE 6

• Windows are more complex than new homeowners may realize. Homeowners will need to choose between three commonly available window materials when picking new windows for their homes. Vinyl windows typically are the most affordable option, and opinions vary considerably regarding these products. Some tout their resistance to moisture, but others feel they lack the aesthetic appeal of costlier alternatives like fiberglass. Vinyl windows also can't be painted, which some homeowners may find problematic. Fiberglass windows can be painted and are known for their strength and durability. Aluminum windows are strong and durable as well, but they may not provide as much thermal protection as some other options. Each window type has its own unique pros and cons, and homeowners are urged to do their homework to determine the best fit for them.

• Consider variables unique to your home. Climate is an important consideration when choosing windows, and that of course is unique to each homeowner. How hot or cold the local climate can be will affect how well windows insulate a home, so a window that's best for one particular region may not be

ideal for another. Homeowners are urged to investigate which window materials are best suited to their local climates. All windows protect against the elements, but some might provide more adequate insulation, which can help keep utility bills low and everyone inside a home more comfortable.

• Homeowners may need to decide between replacement windows or new construction windows. The window experts at Pella note that new construction windows are the primary option for newly constructed homes or room additions. Replacement windows are typically installed when homeowners need new windows but do not want or need to remove existing exterior cladding or trim. Replacement windows tend to be considerably less expensive than new construction windows, but the latter option merits consideration.

• It can be budget-friendly to replace more than one window at a time. Some, though not all, window installation companies charge a non-negotiable project fee, so it can be more financially savvy to replace more than one window at a time. Replacing windows piecemeal may require homeowners to pay the project fee for each installation, whereas homeowners who replace multiple windows at the same time will only incur that fee once.

MOLD INFESTATION FROM PAGE 3

underscore how important it can be for homeowners to learn to identify when they have a mold issue at home.

• Learn what mold looks like. Mold patches increase in size the longer an infestation goes unchecked, so it might be easier to stop an issue after it's been around awhile. The NYSDOH notes that mold typically appears as fuzzy patches that may be discolored or even slimy.

• Recognize that mold also can be malodorous. Mold produces a distinct musty smell that is often the first symptom people recognize when they have an infestation at home. If a musty smell is present in a room, try to follow it to its source. That may involve some trial and error, as mold can grow behind and even underneath surfaces, including carpets, wallpaper and cabinets. Mold also can grow behind walls, a situation that may necessitate working with a remediation professional.

• Know where to look. Though mold can grow anywhere in a home, certain areas in a home are more vulnerable to an infestation than others. Rooms affected by moisture are susceptible to mold growth. In bathrooms, mold may grow around sinks, shower stalls and curtains, and tiles. In kitchens, mold can grow on tiles and even on the seal around a refrigerator door. Mold also can grow on and around window air conditioner units.

The NYSDOH notes that certain people may be more vulnerable to mold-related health problems than others. Such individuals include people with existing respiratory conditions and those with compromised immune systems. Homeowners can prioritize safeguarding their homes from mold infestations and, when necessary, work with remediation professionals to eliminate existing issues and reduce infestation risks going forward.

Protecting a home against a mold infestation is a simple yet important task to keep their homes safe and healthy.



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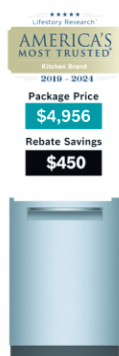
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