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DIY

Home improvements you can do in 24 hours or less

To help you spring into warm weather home improvement, here are 24 simple projects that take 24 hours or less to accomplish:

Put a fresh coat of paint on the front door. Standard paints can take a long time to dry, especially if you live in a humid climate. SnapDry(R) from Sherwin-

Williams(R) dries in as little as one hour, and you'll be able to close the door without it sticking. The paint can be used inside or outside the home and it resists dirt, fingerprints, UV rays and weathering.

Update kitchen cabinets. Recently, homeowners are changing the facades of

their kitchen cabinets and painting them instead of staining them—a trend that has grown tremendously. Add new knobs to complete the look for an easy, inexpensive way to give your cabinets a facelift.

Swap pillows and throws. You can't change your couch every time the sea-

son changes, but switching out pillows and throws is a great way to give seasonal flare to your living room decor. Create a statement wall. Installing graphic wallpaper or wood planking on one wall, or simply painting one wall or the ceiling a contrasting color, can add drama to any room in the house.

Spruce up the deck for summer enjoyment. A refinished deck looks great, and doesn't have to be a lot of work. SuperDeck(R) from Sherwin-Williams goes on fast and easy, and protects the integrity of your wood deck. It can even reduce the surface temperature of the wood, making the deck barefoot-friendly on a hot summer day.

Add wow factor to your entryway. Large planters

with hardy, bright blooms add curb appeal when positioned on either side of the front door.

Update your lighting. Modern light fixtures in kitchens and bathrooms shed a whole new light and look on the room. Consider installing a dimmer so you can create the right mood, any time of the day. While you're upgrading lighting, be sure to replace old-style incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient ones that will last longer and cost less to operate.

Create a gallery wall. Hang multiple family photos and/or chic prints in varying frame styles and sizes on one wall of the living room.

Rearrange your furniture. Talk about a no-cost way to get a totally differ-



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Every house has a spot where shoes, backpacks and other personal items collect. Organize that area with hooks for hanging and cubbies or shoe racks for storage.

ent look. Experiment with different furniture configurations, and don't be afraid to move pieces from room to room.

DIY » PAGE 4

Mr. Henderson

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Dave Earwood, Office Manager, and Jim Kerr, President, Modern Exterminating and Termite Control, pose alongside Jesse Jaws and his pals from the “Hole-in-the-Wall” gang. The company was named favorite exterminator in the annual Talk of the Town reader voting. This February marks the company’s 70th year in business.

DIY

FROM PAGE 2

Create a recharging drawer in your kitchen. Clean out that junk drawer, add dividers and a power strip and you have the perfect place for recharging your family’s electronic devices.

Install a ceiling fan. Nothing says spring and summer like a ceiling fan wafting gentle breeze through a room. Choose the style and size that’s right for your space. Bonus: ceiling fans can help reduce energy bills by cheaply supplementing air-conditioning and heating.

Organize your mudroom. Whether it’s a formal mudroom or a corner of the entryway, every house has a spot where shoes, backpacks and other personal items collect. Organize that area with hooks for hanging and cubbies or shoe racks for storage.

Add a display shelf above a doorway. A wooden shelf

above a doorway is a great place to feature collectibles.

Add vintage class to a powder room. Replace the ordinary doorknob on your powder room door with a vintage or replica glass knob.

Install decorative house numbers. You can purchase decorative tile or glass numerals from a variety of sources.

Stencil some fun. Add animal or character stencils to the walls of a child’s room, staircase or kitchen, or patio table for a quick, artsy take.

Add a ceiling medallion. Draw attention to a light fixture by installing a decorative ceiling medallion that has a slightly different color than the ceiling.

Replace a kitchen faucet. A new kitchen faucet can be practical and decorative, but can also control water flow, saving money.

Pressure wash siding and walkways. Power washing exterior home areas makes siding and walkways look fresh.

Hang a new mirror in the bathroom. A decorative framed mirror in place of a standard bathroom mirror

adds interest, elegance and even light to the space.

Put a decorative decal in the laundry room. Create some fun in the laundry area by adding a decal with a humorous saying, such as “Life is too short to fold fitted sheets!”

Upgrade bathroom towel storage. Replace those builder-issue towel bars and rings with decorative options that add pizzazz.

Make your own art with a shower curtain. Love large-scale artwork but have a smaller scale budget? Use wood to frame a decorative shower curtain and turn it into wall art.

Wash windows! What’s the one spring DIY task that will make all the others in your home look even better? Wash windows to allow spring and summer sunlight into your home.

Trying just a few of these easy home-improvement tasks is a fast way to perk up your home for spring and summer.

Courtesy of BrandPoint

BUSINESS

Wm. Henderson celebrates 40 years in business

By Kevin Tustin*ktustin@21st-centurymedia.com
@KevinTustin on Twitter*

MARPLE » Wm. Henderson Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Inc. had a very modest start in the HVAC industry in Delaware County.

Started in 1977 by Rita and William “Bill” Henderson, it was just a two-person operation based out of the Henderson’s Havertown home with Bill doing all of the service calls for at least the first year. Since then, it has blossomed to a nearly 50-person operation with a 2,000 square-foot office – and a 2,000 square-foot warehouse to boot – and a fleet of trucks with the company’s name doled out in that iconic green font.

Come April 1, the Hendersons will be celebrating 40 years of service to the region where “your comfort is our priority.”

“We’ve just grown, we’ve grown by leaps and bounds,” said Rita Henderson, who still works part time in the business office.

In addition to a larger space footprint and expanding from one technician to 25 technicians and apprentices, Wm. Henderson has expanded from doing residential work to light commercial and apartment buildings throughout Delaware County, the Main Line



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wm. Henderson’s approximately 50-person crew today.

and Chester County since its start.

“Did I think it would be 50 employees? I don’t think so. I was a little afraid of that, you know? But I have to say it’s been very good to us,” said Henderson. “We’ve been blessed, very blessed. Blessed with good employees, blessed with everything good I have to say.”

Today, the business has its own dispatch service that can get technicians out to customers 24/7, but it wasn’t always like that.

For at least the first 15 years, Bill Henderson would be the one to work a regular shift during the week and be the on-call technician around the clock.

“He never asked the men to be on call,” Rita said of her

husband’s strong work ethic. “When we got a little bigger that’s when (technicians) started to be on-call only on the weekends. My husband always took the whole week. He was ambitious, very work-minded.”

And now another ambitious person in the family has taken the reigns: Rita and Bill’s son, Michael.

Michael became second-generation owner of Wm. Henderson in April 2016 following an already substantial role in the business. He cut his teeth in the HVAC industry while still attending Haverford High School by going into a plumbing apprenticeship class and then attending other reputable technical career schools in the region. He joined Wm.

Henderson as a first apprentice and worked his way up to the operations manager in 2007.

“I thought that it would only get bigger when Michael started to come in and make a lot of changes and add a lot of things to the business,” said Henderson. “I knew that he wanted (to take the business over) years ago because there was no one who would care like he cares. It’s wonderful that he has taken over.”

She did admit that it was hard, and still is, to hand the business over.

As they start the next 40 years, family, friends and employees will celebrate Wm. Henderson’s 40 years of business with a special party at the Springfield



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wm. Henderson Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Inc. was founded 40 years ago by William and Rita Henderson, with their son Michael, right, becoming the second-generation owner in April 2016.

Country Club on April 1. With an established presence in the community, and a new Henderson in control of the company, Rita laid out

a very simple way to continue the business’s prosperity. “We’re going to continue the success,” she said.

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WATER FEATURES

While many people are drawn to koi ponds because of their aesthetic appeal, there are many additional reasons for homeowners to consider installing koi ponds in their backyards.

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Add the benefits of a koi pond

Koi ponds can make for beautiful additions to landscaped backyards or home gardens. While many people are drawn to koi ponds because of their aesthetic appeal, there are many additional reasons for homeowners to consider installing koi ponds in their backyards.

Ponds and water gardens can transform yards rather quickly. Ponds can add appeal to otherwise mundane yards and provide eye-catching, relaxing spots to sit and enjoy the scenery.

Koi ponds have recently fallen into a favor with homeowners in North

America, but these popular water features date back several centuries to Asia. Centuries ago, Chinese rice farmers began keeping carp in their rice paddies, and that practice eventually caught on in Japan. The fish started to breed and form slight color variations. Koi, often referred to as “Nishikigoi,” are actually descendants of the common carp, though the koi of today are more brightly hued and ornamental fish than carp.

Koi can become a low-maintenance family pet. These fish tend to grow accustomed to having people around, and will often in-

teract with visitors at the surface of the water. It's not unusual to have koi beg for food or take food from a person's hand. They also may tolerate some light handling.

Another benefit of koi ponds is that they create a miniature ecosystem within the yard. When stocked with aquatic plants and other fish that can help keep mosquito larvae and other parasites at bay, they can sustain themselves quite nicely. Ponds also can attract birds and beneficial insects, such as butterflies and dragonflies. By implementing straight ver-

tical walls on the perimeter of the pond and setting up some natural barriers, homeowners can avoid unwanted predators from disturbing their koi ponds.

Koi ponds also provide some psychological benefits. The sound of the water can be soothing and relaxing. Sitting by the pond may help alleviate stress, as unwinding next to a pond and watching the fish swim by can help individuals decompress.

Homeowners who have koi ponds may also benefit socially from these eye-catching additions to their landscapes. Homeowners

may connect with others who share their passion for koi and water features. This opens up the opportunity to share the land-

scape and pond with others, building new friends and relationships in the process.

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DON'T CALL IT BLAND

New neutrals dominate the color trends of 2017

From furniture to walls, new homes to remodels, cool grays have dominated home design palettes for the last five years. Look to 2017 to gently shake things up with a focus on fresh neutrals that bring warm and cool tones together to create versatile color with timeless appeal.

One of the most notable trends of the year is the transition of neutrals from monochrome gray to warmer hues, including complex taupe, beige, khaki and brown colors. These warmer tones create an inviting feeling, and while grays will continue to be popular, look for hybrid hues that blend the best of gray with warmer undertones for colors that are unique, yet familiar.

The perfect example of this trend is Poised Taupe

(SW 6039), the Sherwin-Williams 2017 Color of the Year. Earthen brown combines with conservative gray resulting in a weathered, woodsy and complex neutral that fits well in virtually any room.

"Poised Taupe celebrates everything people love about cool gray as a neutral, and also brings in the warmth of brown, taking a color to an entirely new level," says Sue Wadden, director of color marketing for Sherwin-Williams. "Not cool or warm, nor gray or brown, Poised Taupe brings a sense of coziness and harmony that people are seeking."

If you're looking to refresh your space with this new color trend, there are countless opportunities. Here are four stunning home decor



One of the most notable trends of the year is the transition of neutrals from monochrome gray to warmer hues, including complex taupe, beige, khaki and brown colors.

BRANDPOINT

themes using this up-and-coming color:

Cornflower hues

With its cool-yet-warm vibe, Poised Taupe is an ideal complement to cornflower hues. For example, when paired with the faded indigo of Stardew (SW 9138), it creates a charming palette ideal for French countryside aesthetics. This fun twist on a classic is sure to produce timeless results in the kitchen or living spaces.

Organic re-imagined

Create an updated nature-inspired palette in your home with citrus green, weathered bronze, mustard yellow and light, cool-toned blue paired with earthy neutrals like

Poised Taupe. This contemporary organic look is perfectly re-imagined for the modern world with just the right amount of visual appeal.

Wine and taupe

Saturated color pairings that evoke deep moods are gaining popularity. Taking cues from baroque and romanticism designs, the Sherwin-Williams Noir palette is rich with colors that are reminiscent of vine-ripe fruits, dramatic wine colors and deep blues. Balance this mysterious palette with a neutral like Poised Taupe and you'll have a look that is unexpected and gorgeous.

Yellow pop

Gray tones always provide a clean, modern base, but contrasting these hues with vivid colors allows you to transform any room into a contemporary paradise. Try using the deep teal of Marea Baja (SW 9185) and sunny hued Bee (SW 6683) alongside Poised Taupe to create a graphic look perfect for the office or kids rooms.

Ready to make this the year you update your house with fresh designs and stunning colors? To learn more about top trends for 2017, visit www.sherwin-williams.com.

Courtesy of BrandPoint

Did you know?

If you think that the only way to exercise and burn calories involves gym equipment, think again. Yard work can be just as challenging as a thorough aerobics workout at a nearby fitness club. To reap the greatest benefits, gardeners should use as little motorized machinery as possible. Manual tools will get you moving and can burn a substantial amount of calories. Try to vary positions and alternate which hands you use to reduce strain and get an even workout. Fitness experts say that gardening can improve strength, increase endurance and assist with flexibility. According to a report in the UK publication The Telegraph, clearing a pond or weeding can burn some 300 calories in an hour. Forty-five minutes worth of gardening can burn as many calories as 30 minutes of aerobics.

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NEW HOME

7 home improvements to tackle before you move in

You found the perfect home, so it's not surprising that you want to move in as quickly as possible. However, there are some projects that are best done when the house is still empty.

So, consider completing the following seven items before the moving trucks arrive.

- **Painting.** A fresh coat of paint can instantly update a room, and it's common to buy a home knowing you will need to paint several rooms or the entire house after the sale. However, painting is best done while every wall is accessible and there are no worries about getting paint on furniture or rugs.

- **Changing locks.** Now is the time to change the locks on your new home to eliminate the risk of any former keyholders accessing your new space. Do this even if you know the former keyholders because you never know who they shared keys with. This fix is quick, inexpensive and it provides you with peace of mind.

- **Flooring updates.** Redoing a floor is always easier when the floor is empty. Whether you're choosing to redo wood floors or lay tile before you move in, tackling this process now also allows you to keep wood and tile dust off of furni-



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There are some home improvement projects that are best done before move-in, including any roof repairs or re-roofing. This home was re-roofed with TAMKO Heritage laminated shingles.

ture and collectables.

- **Roof repairs.** Roof repairs are a must. If the home inspection revealed any damage to the roof, make the necessary repairs before moving in. Choose a contractor experienced with the type of shingles your home requires. Several of the largest shingle manufacturers have programs for contractors who meet certain qualifications, like TAMKO Building Products' Pro Certified Contractor program. Homeowners can easily locate a TAMKO Pro at www.TAMKO.com/find-a-pro to get their project started.

- **Removing popcorn**

ceilings. No one likes these. We're not sure anyone ever did, but alas, they are a common sight, especially in older homes. Popcorn ceilings (and walls) are easy to remove, but messy. Use a spray bottle to moisten an area, then scrape the texture off with a towel. Clean-up will be much easier if you complete this project before introducing your furniture to the space.

- **Fix leaks.** If left untreated, water leaks can do serious damage to furniture, rugs, flooring and other valuables. Leaks can also lead to secondary problems like rot-

ting wood, mold and mildew. And let's be honest, no one wants to live in a house where you can't

use the water, so address plumbing issues before you move in.

- **Child and pet proof-**

ing. Careful child and pet proofing can protect your babies (furry or otherwise). Gates at the top and bottom of stairs, outlet covers and locks on cabinets, drawers and any other place chemicals or medicines are kept, can help make your new home a safer place.

As difficult as it can be, sometimes delaying your move-in by a few weeks can save months of frustration in the long run. So don't wait, because the sooner you start, the sooner you can start your new life in your new home.

To learn more about how you can use TAMKO building products in your next home project, visit TAMKO.com.

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SHADY CHARACTERS

Shade-tolerant plants help complete landscapes

Plants need sunlight to thrive and grow, but some need less sunlight than others. People who find their landscapes are less supportive to sun-loving plants can choose from a variety of shade-tolerant plants, shrubs and trees.

Shade tolerance refers to a plant's ability to withstand low levels of light. Certain plants have adapted this feature to survive in the wild. Plants that grow at the base of forest floors, for example, will get less sunlight than others outside of the tree canopy. Such adaptations enable a wide variety of foliage to grow even though they are not exposed to much sunlight.

While sun-loving plants often have broad leaves and expend significant energy to capture sunlight for photosynthesis, shade-tolerant plants expend less energy and tend to be more efficient consumers of soil nutrients and sunlight.

Penn State Extension's Plant and Pests division says the amount of shade a plant is growing under will directly affect the density of the foliage and the plant's flowering and fruiting characteristics. Blending shade-tolerant plants into the landscape can be an effective use of space. Before choosing plants for an existing landscape, it's important to assess the level of shade or sun the plants will receive.

• **Heavy shade:** Heavy shade is when no direct sunlight reaches a plant. This occurs at the base of



METROCREATIVE

Shade-tolerant plants, such as coleus, can add color and appeal to shady areas of a landscape.

northern-facing walls or beneath thick tree canopies.

• **Full sun:** Areas that receive full sun enjoy direct sunlight between six and eight hours per day.

• **Moderate shade:** These sites have reflected sunlight that may come off of water features.

• **Light shade:** Plants in these areas will get partially filtered or dappled sunlight.

Once homeowners understand

which type of shade they are dealing with, they can then visit plant nurseries and select their plants. Most greenery comes with care instructions that include recommendations regarding the amount of shade/sunlight the plant will need to do well. If further assistance is needed, a knowledgeable employee can make suggestions based on landscape needs.

Those who are looking for

some preliminary guidance when it comes to selecting shade-tolerant shrubs, plants or trees can consult the following list.

• **Bleeding heart:** Bleeding heart, or *Dicentra spectabilis*, is typically found in woodlands. It's a perennial in the poppy family that produces mounded foliage and arching vine-like stems of heart-shaped flowers in the spring.

• **Amethyst flower:** *Browallia*

hybrids offer star-shaped blooms of blue and violet. These plants will billow out of hanging baskets or containers, and they prefer warm shade or filtered sunlight.

• **Coleus:** The coleus, *Solenostemon scutellarioides*, is another perennial that can have a variety of different leaf colors and striations.

• **Witch hazels:** These are a genus in the family Hamamelidaceae, which has four different species in North America. This shrub or small tree features arching branches with dense, multi-stemmed clumps. Witch hazel produces flowers in the late autumn when most other plants are sparse.

• **Bayberry:** *Myrica pensylvanica* can grow in partial shade as a hedge or natural property divider. The leaves of this shrub are aromatic when crushed. The shrub will produce tiny, gray/white fruits in late summer.

• **English Ivy:** Also known as *Hedera helix*, this trailing plant is widely cultivated as an ornamental plant. It will spread easily and can become invasive.

Those searching for shade-tolerant trees can choose among Sugar maple, Black alder, Flowering dogwood, and White spruce, among others.

Shade-tolerant plants can make welcome additions to the landscape, offering greenery and color in the darker areas of a property.

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THINKING OUTSIDE THE COOP

8 common myths about raising backyard poultry

From fresh egg production to natural garden fertilizer, there is no shortage of benefits in raising backyard poultry. But even as families become more familiar with sustainable living and keeping chickens, several poultry myths still exist.

Here to set the record straight for our feathered friends is poultry expert Lisa Steele, creator of the renowned Fresh Eggs Daily brand and author of three top-selling books on the subject. Steele is also a consultant with Tractor Supply Company, the rural lifestyle retailer now celebrating Chick Days with live chicks and ducklings at its stores nationwide.

Here are Steele's eight most common myths surrounding backyard flocks:

Myth 1: Chickens are difficult to care for.

"There is, of course, a certain level of responsibility required to properly care for any living animal. However, when it comes to backyard poultry, the time commitment is fairly minimal - maybe 30 minutes daily," Steele says. Here's what you can expect: In the morning, chickens will need to be let out and fed; waterers will need to be filled. At some point, eggs will need to be collected. Then, around dusk, after the chickens have wandered back to the coop, the door needs to be locked to protect from predators.

Myth 2: Chickens (and coops) smell.

"Chickens themselves don't smell, nor does a well-maintained coop," Steele says. "On average, a chicken produces about 1.5 ounces of manure a day, which is far less than the average dog - not to mention, when composted, it makes wonderful nitrogen-rich fertilizer for a



BRANDPOINT

From fresh egg production to natural garden fertilizer, there is no shortage of benefits in raising backyard poultry.

garden."

Myth 3: Chickens are noisy.

"Despite what you may have heard, chickens are pretty quiet. In fact, a clucking chicken tends to be on par with normal human conversation (60-65 decibels). In other words, it's a lot quieter than your neighbor's barking dog, lawn mower or car alarm," Steele says.

Roosters are a different story, and some areas prohibit them for that very reason. Be sure to check your local ordinances about keeping backyard poultry!

Myth 4: You need a rooster to get eggs.

Chickens will lay eggs regardless of whether or not there is a rooster in the flock. A male chicken is only needed to fertilize an

egg, meaning eggs laid by hens in a rooster-less flock can never hatch into baby chicks. And while there are some benefits to having roosters, they aren't necessary for your hen to produce a basket of delicious, fresh eggs.

Myth 5: A chicken lays an egg every day.

Fresh eggs to eat and share with friends are one of the best benefits of raising poultry, but Steele says not to expect your hen to lay an egg every day. "The average chicken will produce four to five eggs a week, but that will vary depending on the chicken's age, breed, health and environment. Shorter days, extreme temperatures, molting (growing in new feathers) and other stressors, such as the presence of predators, can

all affect egg production," Steele says.

Myth 6: Brown eggs are more nutritious than white eggs.

"The nutrient content of an egg is based largely on a hen's diet, not the color of its egg, which is determined solely by the chicken's breed," Steele says. According to a study conducted by Mother Earth News magazine, a free-roaming chicken that consumes grass and bugs will lay eggs with less cholesterol and saturated fat and more Vitamin A and E, beta-carotene and Omega-3s than a chicken fed purely commercial corn/grain-based foods.

Myth 7: Chickens carry disease.

"Chickens don't carry

any more risk of disease than a dog or cat. In fact, they love to eat ticks and other pesky critters known to transmit diseases like Lyme disease, tapeworm and heartworm," Steele explains. "While salmonella can be transmitted to humans through poultry dander and feces, simply washing hands after handling the chickens keeps the risk of infection minimal." The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also cautions against live poultry inside the home and against letting children younger than 5 years old handle poultry.

Myth 8: Chickens attract rodents and predators.

"Wild predators are not any more attracted to chickens than they are to wild birds, rabbits, squirrels and other small animals," Steele says. "The truth is, predators are likely already living in

your midst. The key to keeping them at bay is to keep your chickens safe in an enclosed pen or run area. Chicken feed should also be taken up at night and stored in predator-proof containers to reduce the possibility of flies and mice."

Now through April, Tractor Supply features Chick Days, where at nearly every location you can see and select live chicks and ducklings. When it comes to raising backyard poultry, Tractor Supply is a one-stop shop with coops, equipment, feed and the expert advice you need to successfully raise chicks into an egg-laying flock.

For more expert information on safe handling and care for poultry, starting a chicken coop and more, visit TractorSupply.com/Chicks.

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