

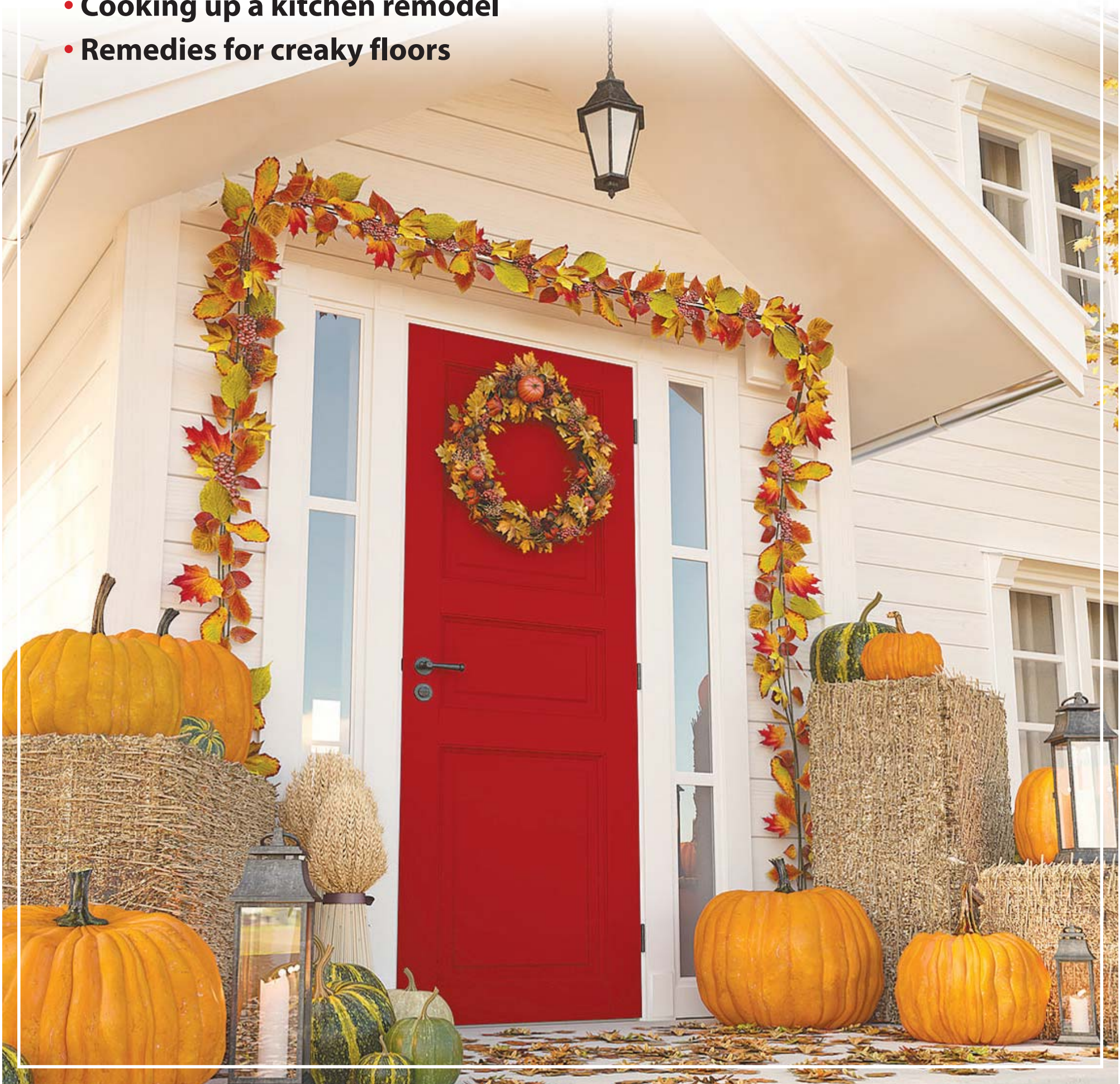
# FALL

# HOME IMPROVEMENT

A Turnpike and Oneonta-Cooperstown Pennysavers, Gazette Publication • September 18, 2025

## Issue One

- Signs it's time to replace gutters
- Cooking up a kitchen remodel
- Remedies for creaky floors





# What to expect of a room addition project

There are many reasons homeowners consider adding a room to their current homes. Some outgrow an existing space, while others take up new hobbies or have different needs that were not apparent when purchasing the home. Indeed, a room addition can remedy a host of issues affecting a home.

**Adding a room is a major overhaul of a space. It may require months of a home being in upheaval. If the renovations are particularly extensive, homeowners may need to temporarily move out of the space.**

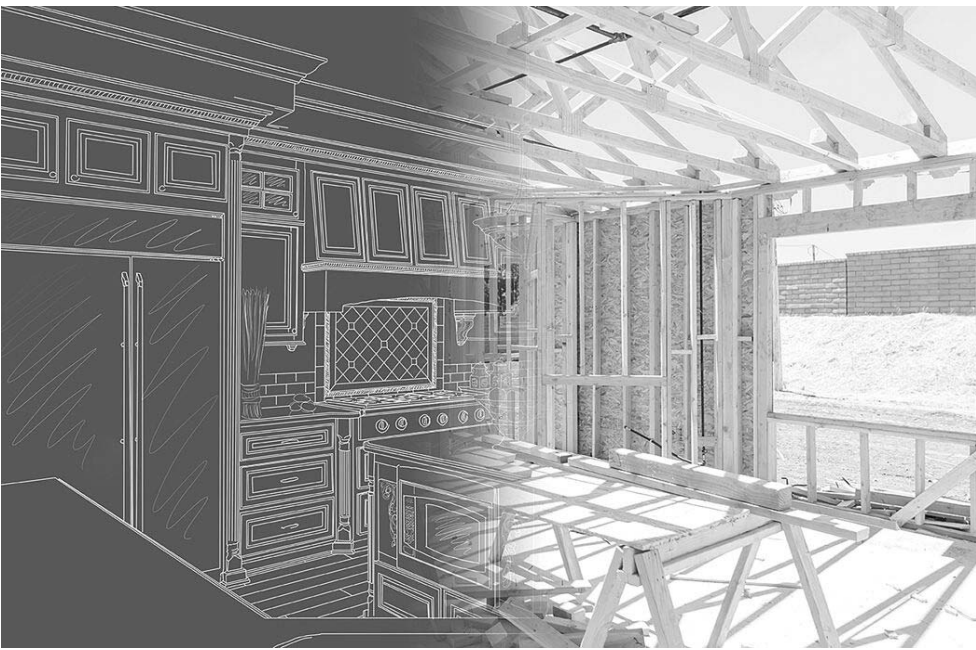
and intended purpose of the room. An addition structurally changes a home, which requires the work of professionals whether homeowners plan to build upwards or outwards.

With so much to ponder when considering a home addition, here's a look at what homeowners can expect of the process.

- **Design and planning:** Homeowners must determine the purpose behind the addition and how it will integrate with the existing home. A bedroom design likely will be different from a garage addition or family game room.

- **Hire an engineer and contractor:** An addition changes the footprint of a home. Homeowners will require professional contractors and

Those considering adding a room may wonder what is involved in this type of project. According to The Spruce, no home improvement project is more complicated or expensive than building an addition. The National Association of Realtors says building an addition can cost between \$90,000 and \$270,000, depending on the size



structural engineers/architects to properly design the addition and ensure that it will not compromise the existing structure. Detailed architectural plans will be drawn up considering the layout, size and integration with the existing structure. The home may require a new property survey as well.

- **Comply with building codes:** The project will have to meet with local zoning regulations, building codes and homeowners association rules.

- **Timing involved:** Adding a room is a major overhaul of a space. It may require months of a home being in upheaval. If the renovations are particularly extensive, homeowners may need to temporarily move out of the space. Electrical, plumbing and HVAC must be considered, and drywall and finishing the interior are some of the last steps to make the room habitable.

- **Demolition:** Adding a room may involve taking down walls or modifying existing spaces, necessitating hiring a dumpster to remove debris. This is an added consideration and expense.

Putting an addition on a home is a complex process that will take time and money. Such a project requires careful planning and consultation with an array of experts. FH259126



P.O. Box 539, 8085 State Hwy. 12, Sherburne, NY 13460



**800-238-7833 or 607-674-6363**

**Fax: 607-674-9706**

**[www.SteelSalesInc.com](http://www.SteelSalesInc.com)**

***Your Source for Steel,  
Stainless, Aluminum & More***

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Call us for your metal roofing & siding, drainage culvert pipes, rebar, wire mesh, structural beams, columns, custom handrails, brackets, and any other metal items your project requires!

***Custom Fabrication***

350 Ton Press  
Brake



High Definition  
Plasma Table



Plate Roller



Cincinnati  
Hydraulic Shear



OMAX  
Water Jet



Monarch Vertical  
Milling Machine



**THE  
CNY SOURCE  
FOR SNOWPLOW  
WEAR PARTS!**



# Remedies for creaky floors

Hardwood floors are coveted features in many homes. The National Wood Flooring Association says wood floors are the most environmentally friendly flooring options available. In the United States, the hardwood forests that provide flooring products are growing twice as fast as they are being harvested. Furthermore, wood floors can last for many generations and require fewer raw materials to produce than other flooring options. That means less waste may end up in landfills.

Hardwood floors can endure for decades in a home, but over time those same floors may need some tender loving care to keep them looking good and working as they should. Squeaky floors are a common nuisance that homeowners may experience. Squeaking is often caused by movement and friction between floorboards. Treating the problem involves identifying the underlying issue.

### Loose hardware

Squeaky floors may be due to the loosening of the hardware holding the floor in place, says The Home Depot. When nails or screws no longer are secured tightly, the boards can rub together. The noise heard is the sound produced by rubbing. Tightening or replacing the hardware can help reduce the squeaking.

### Counter-snap kit method

This Old House says this kit method is a great way to fix squeaks without damaging the floor. Once the source of the squeak is located, drill a 3/32-inch pilot hole through the hardwood flooring. Then insert a screw through the kit’s depth-control fixture and into the pilot hole, and drive it until it automatically snaps off below the wood surface. Follow



this up by filling the hole with wood putty that matches the floor color. Once the putty is dry, lightly sand the area to blend.

### Use a shim or shims

Sometimes the floor may squeak because of a gap between the joists and the subfloor. Filling the gap with a small piece of wood called a shim can help alleviate the gap or gaps.

### Drive up screws

If a squeak is just in one spot, The Home Depot says that you may be able to drive short screws from below into the subfloor.

### Small gaps

For small gaps between boards, sprinkle talcum powder or powdered graphite between squeaky boards to reduce friction. Wood filler applied with a putty knife also may work. For larger gaps, use a liquid filler designed for wood floors.

Homeowners also can visit their local home improvement center for other hardware solutions designed for underfloor repairs to remedy squeaks. Many work from underneath the floor and involve mounting plates or brackets to sure up the floor.

Squeaky floors can be problematic, but noises can be banished with some repair work. FH259127

## WHY BUY USED WHEN YOU CAN BUY NEW?

14x60 (56) 2BR/1 BATH (747) SQ. FT.

**STARTING UNDER \$57,000**

*Price includes delivery, set up and septic hook up.*



## COME SEE THIS HOME.

*Ready for immediate delivery.*

*First come first serve.*

OTHER LOT MODELS AVAILABLE

Call For More Information

**315-858-2100**

**Better  
Homes**  
& Transport, Inc.



Your Affordable Housing Solution

3787 US HWY 20  
Richfield Springs, NY 13439  
Hours: Mon.- Fri. 9-5;  
Sat. 11-3; Closed Sun.

[www.betterhomesandtransport.com](http://www.betterhomesandtransport.com)



- ✔ Pressure Treated Skids & Joists
- ✔ Shingle or Metal Roofing
- ✔ Flexible Storage Options
- ✔ 3/4” Tongue & Groove Flooring

**Yoder's**  
QUALITY SHEDS

278 ATSWELL RD.,  
RICHFIELD SPRINGS  
**315-858-0841**  
MON-FRI 8 AM - 5 PM  
SAT. 8 AM - 3 PM  
CLOSED SUNDAY



# How to prepare for a lengthy renovation project

Home renovations can increase resale value and outfit spaces to make them more accommodating to residents. Homeowners interested in remodeling projects understand that such undertakings are often a lengthy process. But the time spent waiting often is well worth it when the work is done and the finished product looks just as homeowners imagined.

Depending on the scope and scale of a project, home renovations can take anywhere from a day or two for minor cosmetic changes to nine months for a major project. The lender RenoFi says projects like remodeling a kitchen or bathroom have a lot of moving parts, including plumbing and electrical work, structural changes, flooring, and installation of appliances. Due to that complexity, such projects may take six to 12 weeks. A home addition can take months. Homeowners weary of such lengthy undertakings can implement strategies to make conditions at home more manageable.

- Get a rough estimate from contractors so that you can budget accordingly. A project will go nowhere without proper funding. Get detailed estimates that include labor and building materials. Then start saving and stash money away for the project so you’re not caught off-guard later on.
- Clear out clutter. Remove any extraneous items from the room or rooms that will be remodeled. Although it will be an added expense, it is a good idea to rent a storage unit or have a storage pod placed in the driveway or yard for the duration of the project. Move items that will not be needed into the unit. This will get them out of the way and protect them from damage.
- Consider starting in warm weather. Contractors will be going in and out of the home each day, and doors and windows may need to be



propped open. Schedule a project during those months when temperatures are more comfortable. If the project involves limited access to the kitchen to cook, utilizing an outdoor grill or kitchen is much easier when the weather is pleasant.

- Stay with relatives. While some people have no issues living in a residence during a renovation, others may find the work simply too inconvenient or distracting to be around. Time away from the property can help manage stress, and prevent kids, pets and others from getting in the way of work.
- Safeguard sensitive items. Take inventory of items in the home and catalog them for insurance purposes. This way you’re covered in the case of damage or theft. Remove documents, like birth certificates, passports, insurance policies, and other private papers, and keep them in a safety deposit box or fireproof safe.

Home renovations may stretch on for weeks or months. However, with adequate preparation, homeowners can see such projects through without facing too much adversity. SH252598



## Don't Buy a Pole Barn Package Until You've Contacted Us!

*We Offer Competitive Pricing and Guarantee Satisfaction.*

# POLE BARN PACKAGE



### 24' X 32' X 10' POST FRAME PACKAGE:

*Call for current pricing*

*Designed to meet Your Needs*



**SHEDS AVAILABLE NOW!**

*Call Today for Your FREE Quote!*

- **MATERIAL PACKAGE**
  - Pre-Engineered Wood Trusses (6/12 Pitch, 4' O/C)
  - 4.125 x 5.187 Structural Glulam 3 Ply Eave Posts (8' O/C)
  - 4.125 x 5.187 Structural Glulam 3 Ply Gable Posts (10' O/C)
  - 2 x 8 Treated Skirt Boards (1 Row)
  - 2 x 4 Wall Girts (24" O/C) and Roof Purlins (24" O/C)
  - 2 x 10 Double Top Girt Truss Carrier
  - 1/4" M W I Dbl. Bubb. Dbl. Foil Temp Shield Insulation on Roof
  - Beige Evertast II Traditional Steel Siding
  - Ivy Evertast II Traditional Steel Roof
  - One Bag of Concrete Mix Per Post Hole
- **DOORS & WINDOWS**
  - Two Clopay 9 x 8 4300 Series Ins. Overhead Door Ins. Stds
  - One 3' 9 Lite Entry Door
- **12" OVERHANG ON ALL SIDES W/ VENTED ALUM. SOFFIT**
- **FASTENERS**
  - 1 1/2 Inch Screw for Steel Wall, Roof Panels
  - 5 In. Ledger Lock Screw for Truss Carrier
  - 3 1/2 In. Galv. Pole Barn Nails for Skirt Board
  - Galvanized Steel Framing Nails
- **DETAILED BUILDING PLANS**



2726 State Hwy. 7, Bainbridge, NY  
(Located Between Rte. 8, Sidney and Bainbridge, NY)  
**607-967-4877**  
[www.metalroofingandmetalsiding.com](http://www.metalroofingandmetalsiding.com)

## OUR BEST IN THE FIELD DEALS ARE HERE

For a limited time, save big on the all-new 1100 and 2100 Series. With a reliable diesel engine, our best-ever lift capacity, and intuitive tech like Crank Assist, dual-pedal HST, and a handy companion app, they're tougher and smarter than anything else out there.



### BEST IN THE FIELD DEALS

### 1100/2100 SERIES

**0% <sup>RDF</sup> 84<sup>MO</sup> + \$2,000 CASH BACK**

OR UP TO \$5,000 CASH BACK

### NORWICH OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT

5876 County Rd. 32- East River Road, Norwich  
**607-334-4378**  
[www.norwichope.com](http://www.norwichope.com)  
8:00-5:00 Monday-Friday and 8:00-12:00 on Saturday



**OUTWORKING THE FIELD**

Available 0% APR financing on purchases of selected new Mahindra tractor models from participating dealers' inventory on qualified purchases through Mahindra Finance US LLC. A down-payment may be required for selected tractor models. Financing information is made available by Mahindra Finance USA LLC for discussion purposes only and is not a commitment to finance any transaction. The information provided is not intended and should not be construed as legal, accounting, or tax advice. All financing is subject to credit review and approval and other terms and conditions and is at Mahindra Finance USA LLC's sole discretion. Offer available for a limited time only and subject to change without notice.



# Cooking up a kitchen remodel

A successful kitchen renovation project requires careful planning and a detailed vision of what the space will look like upon completion. Whether a homeowner is thinking about giving the kitchen a major overhaul or just a minor refresh, bringing that vision to life doesn't happen overnight. There is a process that must go into a kitchen renovation. Embarking on a kitchen remodel can be an exciting venture and homeowners may be eager to dive right in, but familiarizing oneself with what to expect prior to the start can help property owners navigate the process more smoothly.

- **Inspiration and design:** The first phase involves dreaming up kitchen plans and making practical decisions regarding efficiency and functionality. Considerable time may be spent working with a designer and architect, which will involve choosing materials and a color scheme.
- **Creating a budget:** According to Angi, the average kitchen remodel costs \$26,934, but price ultimately varies depending on the scope of the work. Costs may be less or more depending on the size of the kitchen and the materials chosen.
- **Demolition:** Before a homeowner can have a new kitchen, the old one must be removed. The real physical transformation begins with the demolition, which tends to be quick but messy. It is essential to set up an alternative "mini kitchen" elsewhere, or expect to be dining out throughout the remodel. The demo process may reveal any issues that will need to be remedied before the real work can begin, such as structural damage, leaks, mold, or other hiccups.
- **Contractor work begins:** It can take one to three weeks for contractors to install plumbing, mechanical components, electrical wiring, ductwork, and more, followed by structural needs and drywall, according to sink and faucet manufacturer Blanco. Flooring and



cabinets will follow, and can take another week or more. Fabricating custom countertops is a lengthy process and can represent the bulk of a kitchen renovation timeline. Expect a few weeks for countertops to be measured, made and then installed.

- **Appliances and finishing touches:** Appliances will be delivered and hooked up at the tail end of the renovation. Finally, the backsplash, fixtures and lighting are put into place. The last leg of the remodel will include painting, trim work and installation of hardware on cabinets and drawers.

Once all the work is done, it is essential for homeowners to make sure everything is to their liking. According to HGTV and Kitchy Crouse of CK Interior Design, a regular kitchen renovation can take anywhere from six to 12 weeks. With so much time devoted to the space, homeowners should ensure it lives up to their expectations. As the renovation begins, homeowners should remember that unexpected issues can arise, including delays due to material availability or unforeseen challenges. Maintaining an open communication with the contractor, asking questions and remaining flexible helps. Although a kitchen remodel is initially disruptive, it is an investment that ultimately enhances a home's value. FH259140

## You Dream It, We Build It!

We offer a tile for any application.  
Stop in our store to see the most extensive samples of tiles in the area. Our showroom is open for your shopping needs.  
*Design and installation services available.*



NappiTileandMarble.com  
10700 Rte. 23, Davenport Center  
607-278-6411

## We Will Design Your Kitchen



We now carry Mantra and Fieldstone Cabinetry  
We offer Blanco products for sinks and faucets



COUNTERFITTERS  
Your perfect fit for custom countertops

Scott M. Warren

Cell (518) 833-2740 • Fax (518) 284-7016  
2319 State Hwy. Rte. 20; PO Box 95; Carlisle, NY 12031  
@warrencounterfitters CounterFittersAndMore@gmail.com





116 Warn Pond Rd., Rte. 12 South, Oxford  
607-843-2000

Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. 10 am-5 pm,  
Thurs. 10 am-6 pm; Sat. 9 am-1 pm

www.countrysideoxford.com



18 month  
Special  
Financing  
Available  
with approved  
credit, ask for  
details

Which  
DS  
product is  
right for  
you?

	First Floor	Basement	Whole House	Forced Hot Air	Coal	Wood	Gas	Freestanding Unit	Hot Water Heating	Green House/Shop
Anthra-Max	•	•	•		•			•		
Anthra-Max Fireplace Insert	•	•	•	•						
Anthra-Glo	•	•	•		•			•		
Aqua-Gem Boilers #1100 , 3200, 4200		•	•		•				•	•
Aqua-Stoke		•	•		•				•	•
CoalMaster		•	•		•			•		•
Comfort Max	•	•	•		•			•		
DS Circulator	•	•	•					•		
Ecomiser		•	•	•						•
Econo Riteburn		•	•		•			•		•
EnergyMax #110	•	•	•		•			•		
EnergyMax #160		•	•		•			•		•
Gas Boiler		•	•				•		•	•
Gas Furnace		•	•				•		•	•
GH Blast #450					•	•		•		•
HeatRight		•	•		•			•		
Heco Cookstove	•		•		•	•		•		
Kozy-King		•	•	•	•					•
Power Boilers # 5000, 6000, 7000					•	•			•	•
Stoker Furnace		•	•	•				•	•	



Anthra-Max  
#DSXV15



Anthra-Max Insert



Anthra-Glo



Aqua-Stoke



CoalMaster



Comfort Max #75



DS Circulator



Ecomiser



Econo Riteburn



EnergyMax



Gas Boiler



Gas Furnace



HeatRight #120



Kozy-King



Stoker Furnace



LOPI® ENDEAVOR WOOD STOVE



FIREPLACE

XTRORDINAIR® 864 TRV 40K GAS FIREPLACE

## No Power? No Problem!

Don't be left out in the cold this winter. A Fireplace Xtrordinair® or Lopi® hearth appliance can provide your family with warmth & comfort even when the power goes out! P.S. - You can even use your Lopi to cook on! Now is the perfect time to invest in a beautiful Fireplace Xtrordinair® or Lopi® gas or wood heater. Come see our vast selection of fireplaces, inserts and stoves that can add the ambiance of fire to any home. Talk to us about your creative vision of fire and let us help you ignite the fire within.

### FACTORY AUTHORIZED DEALER & PARTS COAL STOVES • BOILERS • FURNACES



### BAGGED PELLETS & COAL



Square & Deluxe Canners

#2530 & #2540 Round Canners



#2437 Square Canner



#2738 Deluxe Canner



#24 Stovetop Canner

#15 Stovetop Canner



Shown with 60,000 BTU #PRO60X (Left) & #EX60LW (Right)



The warmth of a wood fire meets the joy of home cooking in the **Kuma Applewood**. Designed to allow the cooking temperature to be adaptable to the season, this small cook stove is ready-made for daily use. Add a pair of optional side shelves to increase your working space! Add an extra cast iron griddle to increase your cooking capacity! Add the cook's comfort shield to block heat radiation from the glass while standing at the stove to cook!

**Affordable Alternative Heating Solutions with more than 30 years of combined experience. NFI Certified installers & service techs. 40 to 50 models on display!**

**WOOD:** Stove - Insert - Furnace - Boiler - Fireplace  
**GAS:** Stove - Insert - Fireplace - Logs  
**PELLET:** Stove - Insert  
**ELECTRIC:** Insert - Fireplace  
**COAL:** Stove - Insert - Furnace - Boiler

*Hearth Boards - Class A Chimney - Mantels & More*





# Faber's

HOME & KITCHENS

Proudly  
Celebrating  
36 Years in  
Business

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED IN OXFORD SINCE 1989



**LOOKING FOR A NEW KITCHEN OR BATH...**

**COME TO THE #1 DESIGN CENTER IN CHENANGO COUNTY.**



Our designers have over  
50 years of combined experience.

**BUDGET TO CUSTOM,  
WE CAN HELP!**

Call or stop in today  
to start your dream kitchen or bath.

Flooring • Windows  
• Shower Doors  
• Countertops-  
Corian, Quartz, Granite & Laminate

**NO INTEREST FINANCING**  
available to qualified buyers.  
Stop in for details.



• WINDOWS • DOORS • SIDING • AWNINGS  
• SCREEN & 3 SEASON ROOMS • SHEDS • PERGOLAS



• VINYL FENCE • ALUMINUM FENCE • CEDAR FENCE



• VINYL RAILING • ALUMINUM RAILING



• COMPOSITE DECKING • POLY DECKING



• DOCKS • CARPORTS • GARAGES • UTILITY & AGRICULTURE BLDS.

116 WARN POND RD., OXFORD - CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 607-843-9834

Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. 10 am-5 pm; Thurs. 10 am-6 pm; Saturday 9 am-1 pm

## YOUR COMPLETE BIG/LITTLE HOME CENTER

- Kitchen Cabinets & Vanities**  
Omega Framed  
Omega Full Access Frameless  
WF Cabinetry  
WF Capital  
JSI Cabinetry  
Cubitac Cabinetry  
Avance Cabinetry  
US Cabinet Framed  
US Cabinet Frameless  
Backwoods Amish Built RTA  
Kitchen Kompact  
Amerock Cabinet Hardware  
Wurth Cabinet Hardware  
Richeliu Cabinet Hardware  
Rev-A-Shelf Cabinet Accessories
- Outdoor Kitchens**  
Open Air Outdoor Cabinetry  
Rock Run Aluminum Cabinetry
- Countertops**  
WilsonArt Quartz  
Silestone Quartz  
Hanstone Quartz  
Dekton  
Sensa Granite  
Coran Solid Surface, Quartz & Endura  
Laminate - Custom & Postform  
MSI Quartz
- Vanity Tops**  
Quartz & Granite  
Remee Cultured Marble, Granite, Quartz  
Stone Central Granite or Silestone  
Samuel Mueller Solid Surface  
Swanstone Solid Surface
- Ceramic Tile & Stone**  
Florida Tile - Wall, Floor, Backsplash  
Merola Tile - Wall, Floor, Backsplash  
Lungaro Backsplash & Specialty Tile  
Earthen Treasure Granite, Marble, Stone Tile
- Sheet & LVT Flooring**  
IVC Flexitec  
Tarkett Fiberfloor  
Flooration LVT Glue Down  
Congoleum Triversa LVT Click  
NextFloor StoneCast LVT Click  
NextFloor Scratchmaster LVT Click  
H\*Flor Pikes Peak Click  
H\*Flor PRESTG Artistry Glue Down/Click  
Trillium Cerameta LVT Glue Down  
Generations Lineage LVT Glue Down
- Flooring**  
BSL Hardwood  
Elite Advantage Engineered Hardwood  
Advanced Edge Sports Flooring
- Carpet**  
NRF Select Carpet  
Carpet Tile - Commercial & Residential  
Indoor/Outdoor Carpet  
Foss Carpet Tile  
NEFS Carpet
- Shower & Tub Walls**  
Samuel Mueller Solid Surface  
Swanstone Solid Surface  
Fibo Laminate  
Wedi Tub & Shower Systems  
Certified Wedi Pro Shower System Dealer
- Shower Doors**  
Century Bathworks Shower Doors  
Arizona Shower Door  
Samuel Mueller Shower Doors
- Samuel Mueller Bath Accessories**  
Grab Bars, Shelves, Towel Bars, Hooks,  
Shower Niches/Storage Pods,  
Shower Seats - Fixed & Stand Alone
- Maidstone Claw Foot Tubs, Kitchen & Bath  
Oak Pointe Stair & Railings Components**  
Wood, Metal, Cable
- CycloVac Central Vacuum Cleaners**
- Railings & Porch Posts**  
Superior Plastics Vinyl  
Superior Plastics Cable  
Keylink Aluminum  
Keylink Aluminum Cable  
Eastern Illusions Vinyl Railings  
Eastern Ornamental Aluminum  
Evolve Solid Plastic Railings
- Decking**  
Clubhouse Cellular PVC  
MoistureShield Composite  
Evolve Solid Plastic Lumber & T&G Decking  
Renew Decking & Trim  
Rhino Armadillo Decking  
TruNorth Composite  
Duxxbak Composite Decking  
Aeratis Cellular PVC Porch Flooring  
Siberian Larch Wood Decking  
Western Larch Wood Decking  
Lunawood Thermowood Decking  
Tropical Hardwood Decking  
Southern Yellow Pine Porch Flooring  
Western Red Cedar Boards, Decking, Siding  
Trimax Plastics Structural Plastic Lumber  
ZipUP Underdeck Ceiling Panels
- Fencing**  
Superior Plastics Vinyl  
Keylink Aluminum  
Masterlink Chain-link  
Eastern Illusions Vinyl Fence  
Eastern Ornamental Aluminum  
Eastern Cedar
- Siding**  
Royal Vinyl Siding  
Foundry Vinyl Shakes & Siding  
MidAmerica Shutters & Siding Accessories  
Koma Cellular PVC Boards & Trim  
Metal Sales Steel Roofing & Wall Panels
- Awnings - Retractable, Window,  
Door Pergolas, Sun Shades, Canopies**  
Aristocrat Awnings  
Sunair Awnings  
Agecraft Aluminum Awnings
- Screen & 3 Season Rooms**  
Ballew's Aluminum Screen Rooms  
Ballew's Alum. Carport & Patio Covers  
Ballew's Mobile Home Roof Overs  
Ballew's Aluminum & Vinyl 3 Season Rms  
Aristocrat Aluminum & Vinyl 3 Season Rms
- Outdoor Patio & Stone Veneers**  
Adorn Firepits, Planters & Pavers  
Genstone Veneer Panels  
Adorn Mortarless Stone Panels  
Interceramic Ledger Stone  
Slimstone Stone Veneer Sheets
- Boat Docks**  
Tommy Docks & Accessories  
Techstar Dock Floats  
Dockmaster Boat Ramps  
DockEdge Dock Components & Accessories  
American Muscle Dock Components & Accessories
- Doors & Windows**  
NC Fiberglass & Steel Entrance Doors  
Wood & Molded Prehung Interior Doors  
Woodgrain Interior & Exterior Wood Doors  
National Vinyl Sliding Doors  
Larson Storm Doors  
National Vinyl Replacement Windows  
National Vinyl New Construction Windows
- American Steel Carports, Garages, Ag Bldg  
Catskill Sheds & Garages**



# Risk factors for mold infestation in a home

Homeowners know that there’s no shortage of work required to maintain a home. Whether it’s a renovation project designed to make a home more comfortable or a safety-related remodel, homes require a significant amount of TLC.

Mold remediation falls under the umbrella of safety-related renovations. Various types of mold can grow in a home, and such infestations may develop just about anywhere in a house. According to the Rhode Island Department of Health, exposure to mold can contribute to an array of adverse health consequences, including allergy symptoms such as runny nose, watery eyes, sneezing, difficulty breathing, and headache. Prolonged exposure can cause allergic reactions to become more severe. Various points in a home can be vulnerable to mold infestation. The New York State Department of Health notes that identifying and controlling moisture is the key to preventing mold infestations in a home. Certain points in a home, if left unchecked, are more likely to promote mold growth than others. As homeowners work to maintain their homes so the environment inside their walls is as comfortable and healthy as possible, they can routinely inspect potential mold infestation points and do their best to keep these areas as free from moisture as possible.

- **Roof:** A sturdy, leak-free roof can help prevent a buildup of moisture that can contribute to mold growth.
- **Indoor plumbing:** Check the pipes beneath sinks throughout the home, including those in the kitchen and bathrooms. Homeowners whose washrooms have a slop sink or utility sink should inspect these areas for leaky plumbing as well.



- **Outdoor drainage:** Maintaining effective outdoor drainage is another way to prevent mold growth in a home. This typically requires maintaining gutters and drains so they do not become clogged during or after rainstorms. Gutter guards can prevent gutters and drains from clogging. Homeowners also may want to work with a landscaper or landscape architect to ensure soil around the house slopes away from the foundation, which can prevent water from pooling near the walls. When water pools near the walls, this can contribute to foundation problems and make it easier for mold to grow.
  - **Basements/crawl spaces:** Basements and crawl spaces are vulnerable to mold infestations because they tend to be dark and cool, which can contribute to dampness that facilitates mold growth. The Rhode Island Department of Health recommends using a dehumidifier in basements and crawl spaces.
  - **Bathrooms:** Steam from hot showers also can contribute to mold growth if the bathrooms do not contain exhaust fans. Such fans can remove excess moisture that makes it easy for mold to grow.
- Mold can pose a notable health threat in a home. But homeowners can keep an eye on various areas of their home and implement measures to keep such spaces dry and less mold-friendly. TF249277

## DS STOVES 2025 FALL SPECIALS

Purchase a Coal Stove and 1 Ton Coal  
Get a 1/2 Ton Coal FREE



- Stocking Chimtek Chimney Dealer
- Super Pro Triple Wall Stainless Steel Dealer
- Stainless Steel Chimney Liners
- Stainless Steel & Black Stove Pipe

**DUTCHMAN** 518-993-2543  
Stoves & Chimneys 95 Willet Street • Fort Plain, NY 13339



- Spray Foam Insulation
- Cellulose Insulation
- Batt Insulation



- Insulation Removal
- New Construction & Retro Fit Construction
- Basement & Crawl Spaces

Serving Otsego County and the surrounding areas.

607-267-3549 &  
607-434-9410

 Nichols Spray Foam  
Insulation LLC  
Nicholssprayfoam@yahoo.com



# Signs it's time to replace gutters

Home improvement projects run the gamut from complex undertakings like room additions to simpler renovations like a new front door. Some home renovations excite homeowners more than others, but all improvements are a way to make a home safer, more comfortable and/or more functional.

A gutter replacement might not inspire the same level of excitement as a room addition or an overhaul of an outdoor living space, but new gutters can help to prevent roof damage and make properties safer by ensuring rain water is directed away from walkways. Homeowners who suspect it might be time for a gutter replacement can look for these signs of fading gutters.

- Cracks or splits: Cracks or splits at the seams of the gutters where two pieces connect is a telltale sign they need to be replaced. Cracks or splits are can slowly lead to separation of gutter pieces, which will lead to leaks. But not all cracks or splits are found at the seams. In fact, some homes feature seamless gutters, which also can crack or split. Regardless of where they're found, cracks or splits are a warning signs of fading gutters.
- Rust: Rust is rarely a good sign whether you're looking at a vehicle or even garden tools. Rust also is a bad sign in relation to gutters. Gutters are painted, and not only for aesthetic purposes. Paint on gutter also serves to protect them from water. When paint begins to flake, gutters will begin to rust and may even produce noticeable rust flakes on the ground below. Rust on gutters and rust flakes beneath them are indicative of gutters that need to be replaced.



- Gutters pulling away from the home: Gutters that appear to be pulling away from the home is a sign that they need to be replaced. Gutters are fastened to a home during installation, which ensures they can withstand rain and water. Over time, those fasteners can wear down, ultimately leading to gutters that appear to be pulling away from the home. Though gutters can be refastened, eventually they will need to be replaced.
  - Pooling water: Pooling water in a gutter may just be a sign that gutters need to be cleaned. However, pooling water on the ground directly beneath gutters indicates they're not effectively directing water away from the home.
  - Water damage inside: A home's interior might not be the first place homeowners look when inspecting for damaged gutters, but a flooded basement or crawl space could indicate a gutter problem. Gutters and downspouts are designed to direct water away from a home when functioning properly. When that isn't happening, water can pool beneath the foundation, leading to pooling water and other water damage in basements and crawl spaces.
- Gutter replacement projects may not be exciting, but new gutters can make a home safer and prolong the life of a roof and other features on a property. FH259132

## JOHN'S MOBILE HOME

### Parts & Accessories

*Anything and Everything You Would Need For Your Mobile Home!*



**CALL FOR  
SPECIAL PRICING!  
ON SALE NOW:**  
Thermopride & Miller  
Furnaces



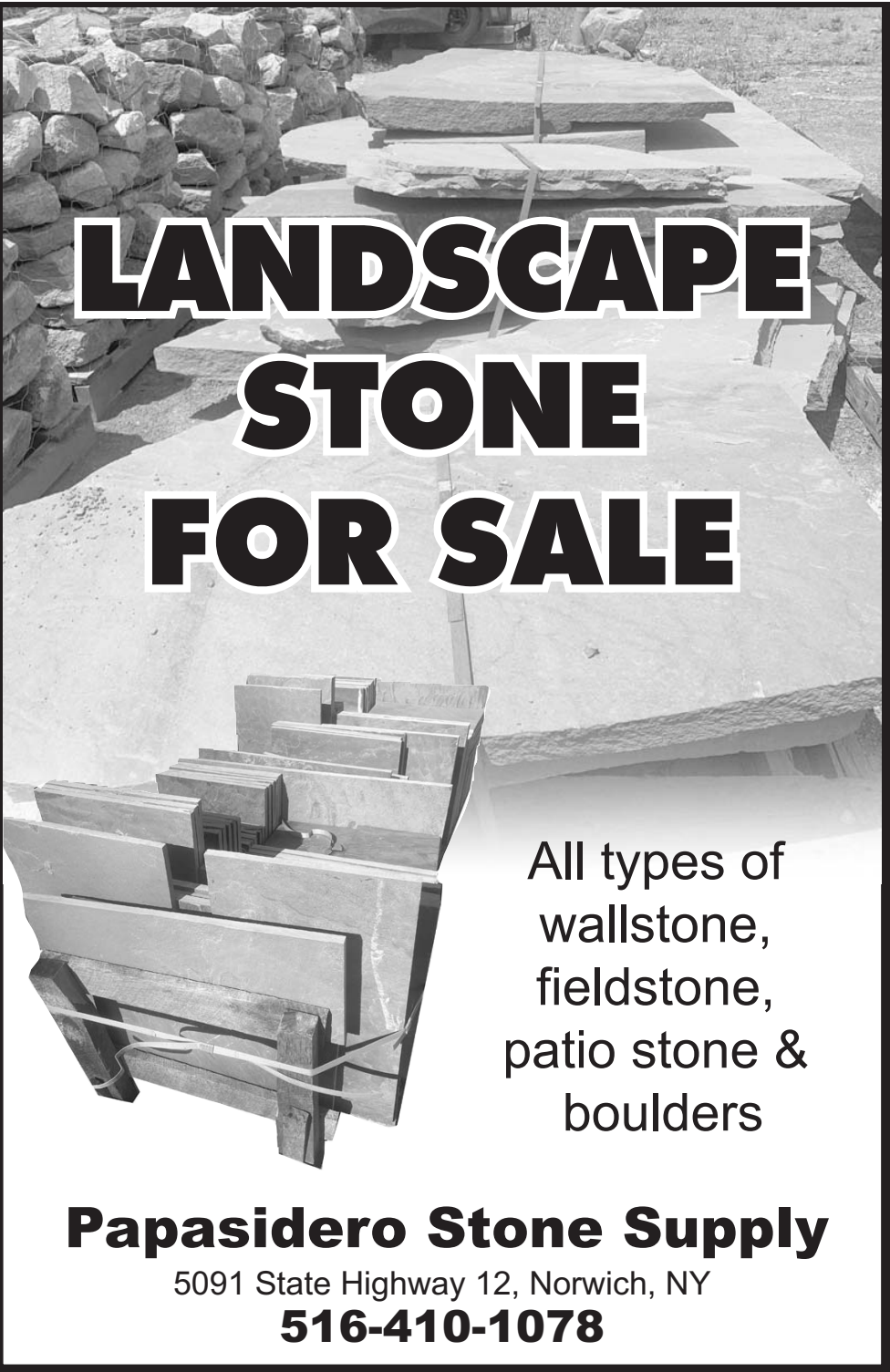
### Visit Our Location for:

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ Miller AC & Furnaces | ✓ Nozzles          |
| ✓ Filters              | ✓ Heat Tape        |
| ✓ Electrodes           | ✓ Hot Water Tanks  |
| ✓ Skirting             | ✓ Tubs & Tub Walls |
| ✓ Doors & Windows      | ✓ Roof Overs       |
| ✓ Roof Coating         | ✓ Skylights        |
| ✓ Furnace Parts        |                    |

**SKYLINE DRIVE, ORISKANY FALLS**  
**315-821-6159**

Tues.-Fri., 9-5, Sat. 9-12  
Closed Sun. & Mon.





# LANDSCAPE STONE FOR SALE

All types of  
wallstone,  
fieldstone,  
patio stone &  
boulders

## Papasidero Stone Supply

5091 State Highway 12, Norwich, NY  
**516-410-1078**



# IMPACT MARKETING CONCEPTS



Specializing in crafting digital experiences that transcend the ordinary and amplify your brands impact in the online realm

- Website Design
- Graphic Design
- Social Media Management
- Google Business Management & Optimization
- Search Engine Optimization
- Google Display/ Search Ads

ImpactMarketingConcepts.com • 607-318-1289  
Powered by the Pennysaver



# What to expect of in-law suites

The modern real estate market has led millions of aspiring home buyers to reconsider their approach to buying a home. Low inventory has led to high home prices. When paired with mortgage interest rates that have remained north of 6 percent for years, the high sticker price of homes has made many buyers wonder if homeownership is simply beyond their means.

It's impossible to know if or when home prices will come down, but some buyers have chosen to seek homes that can accommodate multiple generations. According to the Pew Research Center, the share of multigenerational homes rose from 7 percent in 1971 to 18 percent in 2021. A multitude of factors have contributed to that increase, and housing affordability is one such variable. In 2024, researchers studying multigenerational households at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania noted that housing affordability declined considerably in recent years but also had been on the decline for decades. As homes become less affordable, the number of multigenerational households tends to increase, and that's something modern buyers can keep in mind as they look for a home.

In-law suites that accommodate multigenerational households can provide a pathway to homeownership for buyers who otherwise may be priced out of the market. Buyers considering homes with an in-law suite or those who want to add one to their existing homes can familiarize themselves with these convenient and potentially cost-saving features.

• Note the significance of a separate entrance. Whether you're looking for a home with an in-law suite or hoping to add one on to your existing home, a separate entrance for suite residents can allow them to come and go as they please. That sense of independence is significant. In addition, a separate entrance can make a home seem less like a multigenerational residence, which at times can feel crowded, and more

like a single-generation home. That can afford all residents a little more peace and quiet in a typical day.

• Expect an increase in taxes if you're adding on. As with any addition to a home, adding an in-law suite to an existing home is likely to result in an increase in homeowners' property taxes. The amount of that increase is contingent upon variables unique to each residence, like location and the size of the addition. When shopping for homes with existing in-law suites, buyers can request existing tax



information so they are not surprised by the number like they might be if they add on to an existing home. Despite that, it might still be in prospective buyers' best interest to add on to an existing property and pay the additional taxes than it would to buy a new home.

• Try to include features residents have come to expect when living independently. An in-law suite should include its own private bathroom, a washroom for a washer and dryer and a kitchen or kitchenette. If everyone in a multigenerational household is forced to use the same bathrooms, washers and dryers, and kitchens, then the home might begin to feel cramped rather quickly.

• Try to secure off-street parking. Though it might not affect the ambiance within the in-law suite itself, an off-street parking spot is a convenience residents will appreciate. Such a space will allow residents to come and go as they please and save them the headache of moving their vehicles for snow plows and street cleaners.

In-law suites could be an in-demand feature as more homeowners and aspiring buyers seek to reduce housing costs by embracing multigenerational living arrangements. FH259130

## RANDY & BRENDA'S



**Septic Pumping & Septic Installation**

- Excavating & Bulldozing
- Driveways & Foundations
- Gravel/Stone Hauled
- Septics Dug
  - Pumped & Repaired
- Ponds Dug



For **ALL** Your  
• FALL CLEANING  
• DEMOLITION  
• SCRAP METAL

Give us a call and get your dumpster today!

Servicing Otsego County and the surrounding areas.

**607-434-3556**  
www.randyandbrendas.com

## Premium Appliances for Every Home and Every Budget



**Our Prices Compete with Any Box Store**  
Manufacturers' Rebates on Many Models  
Service After The Sale • Financing Available

**ROBINSON BROS.**  
"The House That Good Service Built"  
80 E. Main St., Mohawk, NY  
315•866•2800  
M-F 9 am-5 pm; Sat. 9 am-12 pm





# Caring for kitchen countertops

Kitchen remodels are a popular home improvement project that help homeowners recoup large percentages of their initial investments at resale. A kitchen remodel can invigorate a home and make the most popular room in the house more functional. According to HomeAdvisor, a home-improvement informational guide, homeowners spend an average of \$22,000 on kitchen remodels. However, lavish projects can cost more than \$50,000. Protecting such investments is important and requires that homeowners understand how to properly maintain kitchen features so they have the longest life possible. This includes the new countertops that make the kitchen look complete. Countertops come in various materials, not all of which should be treated the same way. Quartz, granite, marble, laminate, and tile countertops require different types of maintenance.

- Quartz**  
Engineered quartz countertops are popular. Quartz countertops are nearly maintenance-free and resistant to stains, scratches and even heat. Quartz will not need to be sealed like natural stone and can be cleaned using just a damp cloth with a mild, nonabrasive soap.
- Granite**  
Polished or honed granite countertops offer a high-end look that adds instant value to a kitchen. Natural variations in granite give each kitchen a custom look. To keep granite countertops clean, avoid abrasive cleansers that can scratch, and opt for warm, soapy water instead. Stains are possible, but can

- be remedied with a baking soda paste left to sit for a couple of hours, advises Angie’s List. Wipe up oils, acids and soda promptly to avoid stains, and follow advised sealing routines.
- Marble**  
Marble is a natural stone that is porous and will need to be resealed periodically. Because marble has high levels of the mineral calcite, it can be reactive when acids come in contact with it, and etch marks may appear. Promptly wipe away tomato juice, lemon juice, perfume, or toothpaste. Marble is softer than granite and will wear at a faster rate. Avoid scratching and exercise caution when using knives or sharp objects around marble.
- Laminate**  
One of the more budget-friendly materials, laminate countertops can be fabricated to mimic the look of natural stone, wood or even quartz. Laminate is less resistant to damage than other materials and will need a gentle touch. Formica® says to never use abrasive cleansers, scouring pads or steel wool when cleaning laminate countertops. For tough stains, an all-purpose cleaner should suffice when applied with a nylon-bristled brush. Test any cleanser in a discreet area first.
- Tile**  
Cleaning tile countertops requires getting into crevices along the grout lines. A toothbrush and a mildew-fighting cleaner or bleach diluted with water is advised. Also, unglazed tiles need to be sealed yearly. Some soap may leave residue, which can be removed with a solution of vinegar and water. Check with the manufacturer or installer of the countertops to learn more about the ways to clean and maintain new counters. FH188186



## SAVING MORE ON YOUR HOME LOAN STARTS HERE

**Make your next move extraordinary — with fewer fees and more savings.**

### NO CLOSING COST MORTGAGE\*

Say goodbye to closing costs and hello to homeownership.

Your next move is now more affordable. Our No Closing Cost Mortgage helps you save by excluding most upfront mortgage fees—so you can settle in faster and with fewer expenses.

### HOMETOWN HEROES DISCOUNT PROGRAM\*\*

Exclusive benefits for those who serve our communities.

With a \$500 credit towards closing costs, and a 0.125% rate discount, our Hometown Heroes Discount Program is our way of saying thank you to local educators, first responders and military personnel.

Scan the QR code to view current rates and discover our home loan offers.

**NBT BANK**

*It starts here*

[www.nbtbank.com/mortgage](http://www.nbtbank.com/mortgage)

\*The No Closing Cost Mortgage product excludes most up-front mortgage loan fees, including but not limited to origination fees, processing or application fees, flood certifications, credit report and underwriting fees, appraisal reports, and mortgage recording and mortgage tax fees. Borrower(s) will still be obligated to pay third-party and optional fees, including but not limited to any fees associated with buying down or extending the interest rate, real estate tax prorations, homeowner's insurance premiums, home inspections and surveys, owner's title insurance and private mortgage insurance premiums, closing and escrow fees, and reserve funds for escrow accounts.

\*\*Applicable for single-unit, owner occupied homes only. Discount available active-duty military, teachers employed full-time in public or private school, Police officers and EMS responders employed with a local municipality, city, county or state and Firefighters employed or who volunteer with a local municipality, city, county or state. Closing cost discount will be the greater of this program or the mortgage program, if available. Does not apply to FHA, VA or USDA Rural Housing loan programs.

Member FDIC