

Your Guide to Homes, Home Improvement, Lawn & Garden & MORE!

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Getting your home ready for winter starts now

Playing the waiting game

Home staples like paint and furniture hit by supply-chain lag

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Waukesha County Home

When it comes to home projects, one area expert says the wait for new supplies could go on for a while.

As supply chain-related delays and slowdowns impact a variety of industries, some types of products for home updates are not immune.

Lissa Rolenc, owner and creative director at 4 Design, LLC, said those planning to launch home renovation projects should expect delays for certain items.

“Right now, the shortage in raw materials is for paint,” Rolenc said. “If anyone is starting a new project, you are not going to be able to paint until February or March.”

4 Design LLC is based in the greater Milwaukee area and has completed projects throughout the United States. It bills itself on its website as a “full service, commercial interior design firm specializing in senior living and multi-family housing.”

Slowed product distribution and rising prices for petrochemical companies are the result of a

See SUPPLY LAG/Page 8



Eileen Schmidt/Special for Waukesha County Home

Paint shortages are being felt in particular by big contractors needing same-colored paint for apartment complexes and major projects, according to an Associated Press report.

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Healthy habits matter for a fresh refrigerator

(StatePoint) — Did you know that certain kitchen habits can increase the likelihood for bacteria growth, food contamination and food-borne illness?

However, a few simple tweaks to your routine can help reduce these risks and keep foods fresher for longer, leading to less waste.

These healthy habits include cleaning your fridge regularly, setting its temperature to below 40 degrees F, and relying on smart storage solutions.

HEXA refrigerator bins and trays, for example, elevate food, improve air flow and extend freshness. To learn more, visit [Spectrum Diversified.com](http://SpectrumDiversified.com).

When it comes to a healthy kitchen, your grocery selections are just one part of the equation. The way you store food items matters too.



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When your home needs professional help

MILWAUKEE — Last year in the midst of the pandemic, homeowners were rolling up their sleeves to tackle various DIY projects in and around their home. After that brief stint, many quickly realized the benefits of working with a professional, experienced contractor.

“We’re hearing more and more stories from the field about homeowners who have learned there are some projects that are above their ‘pay grade’ and require the expertise of a professional contractor or remodeler,” said Diane Welhouse, executive director of NARI Milwaukee. “In some cases, homeowners started a project but weren’t able to complete it on their own so our members are coming to the rescue.”

For those who have indoor and outdoor plans in mind, the NARI Home & Remodeling Show is the place to find qualified, trusted, local professionals who can do the job right. This year’s show runs Oct. 15-17 at the Exposition Center at State Fair Park, 8200 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis.

More than 70 NARI Milwaukee members will be exhibiting and on hand to answer questions, make recommendations and provide guidance, solutions and creative suggestions. In fact, now is the time for homeowners to line up contractors for their 2022

home improvement and remodeling projects.

Participating exhibitors at the NARI Home & Remodeling Show run the gamut of remodeling and home improvement services and products — from design/build firms to specialized contractors for all areas of the home, including roofing, gutters, windows, doors, HVAC, electrical and more.

To provide homeowners a foundational understanding of the remodeling process, NARI Milwaukee is hosting a series of education sessions at the show. Attendees can learn more about the steps and stages of the remodeling process, how to get started, what impacts the remodeling budget and how much remodeling projects cost. Some of the special education sessions include “What is Your Remodeling Plan?” and several editions of “Guess the Price of the Remodel” gameshow.

“For those homeowners who are ready to make interior or exterior improvements and upgrades, our Home & Remodeling Show is the place to start,” said Welhouse. “It’s a convenient way to talk with a number of local contacts to get a feel for how they work and how you might be able to work with them. And, the timing is right

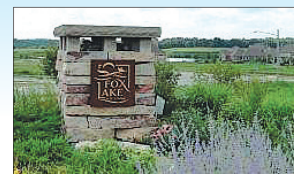
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NARI show

From Page 3

because many contractors are booking six to nine months in advance so getting a jump on the process is imperative."

60th Anniversary Celebration — 'Design Through the Decades'

As part of NARI Milwaukee's 60th anniversary celebration, the Home & Remodeling Show is hosting a first-of-its-kind "Design Through the Decades" exhibit. The exhibit will feature six different room vignettes that showcase design trends from the '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s, '00s and '10s.

■ Visit a California mid-century home from the '60s and notice some of the design elements that are still used in today's open-concept homes.

■ Marvel at an opulent, over-the-top luxury bathroom from the '70s. Think black shag carpeting, foil wallpaper and a full-sized, in-ground Kohler soaking tub.

■ Check out the cool bedroom of an '80s teen complete with posters, a neon sign, VCR and Atari game system.

■ Remember the comfortable '90s living room with its plaid couch and the extremely large entertainment center that took up an entire wall.

■ The 2000s welcomed the Tuscan style and its various shades of brown. Take in a living room with rustic décor elements, elaborate tapestries, wrought-iron wall art and warm sunbaked colors.

■ It's all about the selfie so the '10s room features a variety of selfie stations that are "picture perfect." Show attendees can enter the room, select their favorite spot and strike a pose.

"We're excited to celebrate our 60th anniversary. For six decades NARI Milwaukee has been the go-to resource for homeowners for their remodeling and home improvement needs," says Welhouse. "Each year we help tens of thousands of consumers by connecting them to industry professionals, providing information and insight and guiding them through their project with a variety of resources. We take that responsibility seriously and are excited to celebrate our leadership in the community."

NARI Home & Remodeling Show Details

Tickets for the 2021 Home & Remodeling Show are just \$8 online when purchased in advance. Tickets purchased at the door are \$10 for adults and \$8 for those age 60 and older. Children age 17 and younger and active military, retired military, veterans, first responders and medical personnel (with I.D. at the door) are free.

Parking at State Fair is \$6 and ample street parking is available.

The NARI Home & Remodeling Show runs:

■ Friday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

■ Saturday, Oct. 16, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

■ Sunday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information on the NARI Home & Remodeling Show or to receive a free copy of "Renovate," the new consumer magazine and membership directory, visit NARIMilwaukeeHomeShow.com or call 414-771-4071.

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NARI advises to get ready for winter

NARI Milwaukee is urging homeowners to take advantage of the relatively warm October weather to get their homes ready for the cold winter months ahead.

According to NARI members, if homeowners allocate a few hours over a weekend, they'll be able to take care of quite a few of the important items themselves and schedule contractors to handle those that need professional attention.

Randy Miller, owner of Allrite Home & Remodeling, a certified remodeler (CR) and member of NARI Milwaukee, suggests homeowners walk around their home to visually inspect it, take notes and add items to their list.

"It's essential to take a good look at your gutters and remove any leaves, sticks and other debris that's accumulated in them and the downspouts," says Miller. "During the winter, those obstructions can cause water to back up and form ice dams, which can damage roofs."

Homeowners should also position downspouts correctly and, if needed, lengthen them so they direct water at least 5 feet away from the house in order to minimize the possibility of water run-off damaging the foundation and seeping into the basement.

Other outside fall "to do's" include:

- Remove and drain outside hoses, store them inside and shut off exterior water valves.

- Check the dryer vent to make sure the filter is clean and free of leaves and other debris.

- Cover the air conditioner condensing unit outside and remove inside window units.

- Seal concrete cracks to prevent water from entering the cracks, freezing, expanding and turning a small crack into a bigger one.

- Rake all leaves from the lawn to avoid dead patches of grass next spring.

"Turning off exterior water valves is especially important," said Jessie Cannizzaro, owner of Milestone Plumbing. "When temps dip below zero for an extended length of time, water that's in the exterior valves can freeze and burst interior pipes, which can lead to major expenditure on plumbing."

Things to check inside

Fall is also a good time to think about a home's insulation and energy efficiency from top to bottom.

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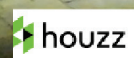

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Winter

From Page 5

At the top of the home, don't forget about the attic.

"Go into your attic and check the thickness of the insulation," suggests Miller. "It should be 16-18 inches deep. Not only does insulation keep your home warm, it prevents heat from escaping through the roof, which is another factor in preventing ice dams."

When heat leaks from a roof, it melts the rooftop snow, which then runs down the roof and can freeze in gutters and under shingles. In addition to roof problems, the water can damage ceilings and walls inside the home.

And, even though it's in the basement and out of sight, homeowners should pay attention to their furnace. That means changing the filter regularly and getting a yearly furnace tune up.

It's also important to check for and appropriately seal drafty windows and doors with caulk since small air leaks can add up to significant heat loss and higher energy bills. In older homes, fall is the time to replace window screens with storm windows and install the storm door. If any pipes or ducts travel through an exterior wall of the house, caulk and weather-stripping can help keep cold air out.

For a thorough evaluation of how to make a home airtight and energy efficient, consider a home-energy assessment. High-tech

tools such as infrared cameras are used to identify where heat is escaping and cold air is entering. A detailed report provides recommendations on ways to save energy while improving the comfort, longevity and safety of the home. In some cases, Focus on Energy provides rebates for energy efficient improvements that homeowners make.

Fireplace safety

A chimney inspection and cleaning is another smart move before cold weather settles in.

According to Howard Rowell, a master sweep, owner of Royal Chimney Service and a member of NARI Milwaukee, a chimney inspection and cleaning takes approximately an hour and includes both the indoor and outdoor elements of the chimney – flue, smoke chamber, smoke shelf, damper, firebox, chimney liner, bricks, crown, flashing, cap and mortar joints.

It's not just woodburning fireplaces that should be checked.

"Gas fired fireplace inserts and direct vent gas fireplaces also require an annual inspection and cleaning to remove creosote and carbon deposits on the ignition surface, burner and safety sensing controls," says Rowell. "We also inspect the chimney flue and vent for nesting material from birds, squirrels, wasps and bees."

To find reliable and trustworthy contractors who can help prepare a home for winter, visit the NARI Milwaukee Home & Remodeling Show at State Fair Park Oct. 15-17.

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Pine-based cleaners can spruce up hard-to-clean spots

(StatePoint) — While pine-based cleaning products aren't anything new, most people don't realize they're among the most functional cleaning products to have on hand, even when it comes to sprucing up your hardest-to-clean items and spaces.

In a recent national survey by AlEn USA, consumers said that bathrooms and kitchens are the hardest areas of the home to clean, and they involve some of their most disliked chores, including mopping floors and cleaning the toilet, tub, oven and stove.

To help you tackle these tough tasks and many other messes, the makers of PINALEN Fresh Pine multipurpose cleaner are sharing facts, cleaning tips, and some surprising uses for pine-oil infused cleaners:

1. Pine oil is extracted from pine needles and diluted, making it extremely effective. It delivers a refreshing and lingering natural piney scent, and it cleans and deodorizes a variety of surfaces.

2. In its national cleaning survey AlEn USA found that 33 percent of people list grease removal as their most difficult cleaning task. Because pine oil is alkaline, it can tackle even stubborn grease and grime on range hoods, stovetops, ovens,

grills, and a variety of other surfaces and household items.

3. Pine-oil infused multipurpose cleaners are extremely versatile and can be used to:

- Remove spots from carpets and floor mats
- Remove lipstick from clothes
- Deodorize your kids' sports uniforms in the wash
- Get stains out of seatbelts
- Deep clean and deodorize toilet bowls
- Get musty smells out of towels
- Erase handprints from walls and glass
- Clean sticky game pieces, toys and balls
- Remove grease from bicycle parts and wheel wells
- Clean marks from leather purses
- Lift dust and dirt from fans
- Scrub mud from boots and shoe soles
- Brighten cellphone cases
- Degrease tools
- Get any nonporous flooring sparkling clean

A clean home has its rewards. According to the study, 68% of people feel a sense of accomplishment after they clean and 65% enjoy the smell of a clean house. To achieve this affordably and with ease, consider streamlining your clean with the power and natural scent of pine oil.



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Supply lag

From Page 1

variety of factors, from the pandemic to a winter freeze in Texas, lighting strike in Louisiana and hurricanes on the Gulf Coast, according to an Associated Press report published in late September.

Shortages are being felt in particular by big contractors needing same-colored paint for apartment complexes and major projects, the report said.

Another area experiencing a slowdown is the furniture industry, according to Rolenc.

"The other delay I'm seeing is furniture. We're looking at almost six months lead time," she said.

One of Rolenc's customers recently sold their home and furniture before a move and since then haven't been able to procure new items.

"This couple moved into a new house and now they have no furniture," she said.

Rolenc also noted that there have been a series of mergers in carpet companies, which may impact carpet availability.

Furniture delays are a global problem, according to a recent report by Bloomberg News.

The report said long wait times on furniture are occurring across the nation, the United Kingdom and a host of other countries.

"Companies say unique headwinds have resulted in delays: a combination of Covid-related problems, increased demand for housing, extreme weather and an unexpected foam shortage," the report said.

Those looking at new construction homes in the coming months will need to be prepared, according to Rolenc. Maybe see what furniture family members have stashed in their basements that can be used for the present, she added.

"Just plan ahead. Don't think if you're building a new house and you're going to buy all new furniture and have it tomorrow," Rolenc said.

There are slowdowns in shipping, as well, according to Rolenc, who said some items will ship and then be held up at an interim location.

"Something will leave Ohio and then go to Tennessee and then it sits in a terminal for two to three weeks," she said.

There are some home project products that are not experiencing supply chain slowdowns, however.

"I haven't had any issues with kitchen cabinets or vanity cabinets. A lot of those companies are local. And countertops haven't been an issue," said Rolenc.

"A lot of vinyl plank and tiles are made here in the U.S.," she said.

Rolenc advised that homeowners consider how particular they are about projects before starting out.

The AP report said analysts expect the petrochemical crunch to last into 2022. Rolenc is hearing that costs may start coming down around the first of the year.

"And I'm hearing the supply chain should be back to normal by the end of February," she said.

"Just be patient. Everybody is trying to do their best. People in the trades are overworked and overbooked," Rolenc said.

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