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Weekends of:
March 5-20, 2022
MBA Spring Tour.com

FREE ADMISSION!

MBA Spring Tour Showcases Homes Across Southeastern Wisconsin

The Metropolitan Builders Association (MBA) Spring Tour is back for its 30th year! The 2022 MBA Spring Tour presented by Nonn's Kitchen Bath and Flooring takes place March 5 to 20, open Saturdays and Sundays from 12PM to 4 PM. During the three week-ends of the Spring Tour, visitors can tour new homes, condominiums, subdivisions, and open lots throughout southeastern Wisconsin for FREE!

This popular FREE community event opens the doors to home building projects from many of the area's top builders and developers. Each one of the projects are built by a member of the MBA, the region's premier home building association. Project sites can be found in a variety of communities across Southeast Wisconsin.

The MBA Spring Tour invites visitors inside homes that incorporate the hottest home building trends, including the latest concepts in floor plans, energy-efficient products, fixtures and appliances, structured wiring, home automation, security systems, and interior design. Visitors will have the chance to talk directly with builders and developers and find the right company for their new home or remodel project.

Whether visitors are in the market for a new home, want to explore contrac-



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tors for a remodeling project, or just want to learn about the latest trends in home design, the 2022 MBA Spring Tour promises to provide an enjoyable experience for all!

These outstanding home builders and developers represent the best in the

industry. By choosing an MBA member for your next home project, you can have peace of mind knowing that you're in good hands.

Due to the active real estate market, we will be updating our website

frequently. For up-to-date information, and a complete list of projects, locations, photos, and participating members, please visit:

MBASpringTour.com



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Things to Consider Before Constructing Your Own Home

by **National Home Builders Association**

A place to call a home of your own is the foundation of the American Dream. With so many online video tutorials and in today's do-it-yourself culture, some people may think they could save a significant amount of money by simply building their own home without hiring a qualified contractor. A self-built home could jeopardize your finances as well as your emotional and physical well-being in the long run. A professional builder has the expertise to construct a quality home you can cherish for years to come.

Before the first stake hits the ground, you'll likely need to secure financing to complete your project. There is financing available for DIYers, although securing the funds might be challenging. If you are a self-contractor, lenders tend to provide short-term

loans and have strict limits on how much money they will give you and may ask you to provide a sizeable down payment. Many lenders also may require you to provide house plans, specifications and an itemized list of documented costs and bids beforehand.

Bypassing the loan process presents its own set of challenges. During your build, there is a chance you may face materials or labor costs increases. Many mortgage companies will not lend money to cover the unanticipated costs when construction has already begun. The bookkeeping for your home doesn't end there. The IRS requires that you send anyone you hired to work on your home-subcontractors-who earned over a certain amount a 1099 form at the end of the year. You'll also have to be regularly on the home site to document delivery

slips, check for inaccurate billing and track material returns to stay on budget.

Professional home builders know what it takes to coordinate the logistics and timing of building a home. There is a specific process for making sure you have all the correct permits at any given time for your build, knowing when to order the materials and how much amount is needed. You need to evaluate bids and hire and schedule qualified, licensed, insured and/or certified subcontractors. The list of activities happening at any given time during the home building process is complex and lengthy. Even for the best-organized person, a scheduling mix-up or need to re-order materials can cause major delays, not to mention thousands of dollars.

Building your own home is also risky

from a legal standpoint. Home builders carry Builder's Risk, General Liability and Workman's Compensation insurance on their building projects. As a self-contractor, you will have to assume most, if not all, of the same liabilities. You may want to consult with an attorney regarding potential liability issues, and with an insurance agent concerning appropriate insurance coverage.

These are just a few of the things you need to think about before building your own home. By hiring a professional home builder, you will get quality workmanship, building code compliance and an outstanding level of knowledge.

For more information please contact the MBA at: info@mbabuilds.org.

10 Reasons To Choose An MBA Member For Your Next Home Project

1. PEACE OF MIND

Consumers trust MBA members because they have met certain requirements set by the MBA to protect consumers. This includes background checks, financial history, and interviews. Consumers can also receive references for MBA members.

2. PROFESSIONALISM

MBA members are dedicated to professionalism. Members have years of experience, as well as memberships in the Wisconsin Builders Association (WBA), and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

3. ETHICS

MBA members promote and encourage the strongest level of business ethics and are held to high standards of personal and business conduct within the industry.

4. HIGH STANDARDS

All members of the MBA must abide by industry standards set forth by the Association. These standards relate to the materials and workmanship to which local builders adhere under local building codes.

5. INNOVATION

MBA members are on the cutting edge of their industry. They stay current on the latest changes in products, technology, building codes/regulations, legislation and consumer preferences.

6. EDUCATION

MBA members benefit from continuing education, updates on building codes, standards, and regulations as well as seminars providing the latest trends and practices.

7. VARIETY

MBA members offer a variety of products and services involved in the construction, development and remodeling of single and multi-family housing.

8. CONNECTIVITY

The ultimate resource for consumers! Visit for information on events, news, educational seminars, job openings, member info, and find a home and lot.

9. ACCOUNTABILITY

The MBA provides an affordable and efficient dispute resolution process available to homeowners that use an MBA member.

10. COMMUNITY CONNECTION

MBA members live and work in your community. They are involved in numerous charitable organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Community Warehouse, Homes for Our Heros, Hunger Task Force, Blue Lotus, Hebron House, and Feeding America; to name a few.

**Visit MBAonline.org
for more information or visit
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our directory of members.**

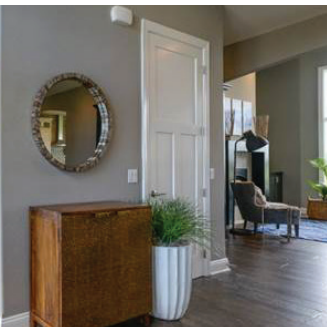
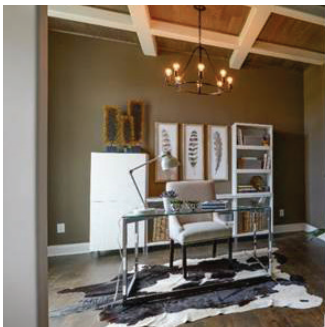


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About the Metropolitan Builders Association



The MBA speaks with a single voice representing the interests of members in the home building industry. We provide our members with learning opportunities to further their business practices and stay current on the latest products, trends, and regulations. We offer services that benefit the members' professionalism and their ability to provide the highest quality service to their clients. All members must meet requirements that are put in place to protect consumers. This includes years of experience, professionalism, ethical standards, and expectations of workmanship quality. The MBA is the credible source about the home building industry for

the members, government, media, policy makers, and the general public.

Why Do Companies Join the MBA?

- Stay educated of the latest innovations and procedures.
- Make connections within the industry and form relationships.
- Promote and influence the course of the building industry.
- Save money on everyday business expenses.
- Get access to free copyrighted forms and Industry Standards.
- Participate in MBA consumer events.

For more information about MBA membership, call the MBA at 262.436.1122, or email membership@mbabuilds.org.



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Mini Makeovers, Major Impact



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Warmer weather is right around the corner, which makes it the perfect time to breathe some new life into your home! Thankfully, it only takes a few minor updates to make a major impact on your space. From revamping your home office to adding some elegance in your washroom, we've got three simple updates that'll put a stylish spring in your step.

REFRESH YOUR WORK AREA

Whatever your aesthetic, you want your at-home workspace to feel fresh and functional-with a splash of style, of course. The trick to finding that balance? A "make-under"! Make-underers are all about simplifying (clutter) and amplifying (style). Start by clearing off your desk and emptying your drawers. Once you have your work area clear, it's time to decide what stays and what goes. Keep: essential work docs, anything you use daily, and 2-3 personal items like photos or artwork. Purge: anything and everything, from old papers to receipts, empty pens to unused tape dispensers. Once your space is cleared & clean, add a cute box for those inevitable odds and ends, a small plant or two, and a few curated accessories that'll make it feel personal and look pleasing. In the end, you'll have yourself a clutter-free and productivity-inducing workspace!

Pro Tip: *If you've got built-in cabinetry in the room, use it to keep extra work-related items on-hand, but out of sight. If you don't have any, add some you won't regret it!*

ADD SOME ELEGANCE

When you think of a washroom, the first thing that comes to mind isn't elegance-practicality usually takes priority. Which is why we love velvet shower curtains so much! They add instant elegance and authentic comfort to a washroom, making you feel like a member of the royal family every time you step out of the shower. As for the



color, we often gravitate towards the most opulent options: deep purple, royal blue, or forest green. And if you want to give those stunning hues a luxurious partner, pair them with a few gilded fixtures or a gold shower curtain rod! Whatever level of luxury you land on, though, one thing is certain: with a velvet shower curtain hanging in your washroom, elegance will always be at your fingertips.

GO RETRO

Retro style is all about creating a sense of whimsy; it's meant to reintroduce fun into a space. So, let's have some fun with it! If you've got a room with a relatively plain palate, try adding a sunny yellow wall or laying down a colorful area rug. Next, start infusing some classic retro textures, like wicker! Add a wicker chair to your patio, a wicker basket to your bathroom, or a wicker shelf to your bed-

room-whatever room you wicker, it'll instantly give the space a chic vintage vibe without much effort. And for the final retro touch, bring macramé back into the foray! Fill a dull wall in your family room with an artistic macramé wall hanging, or string one of your favorite plants up in a suspended macramé plant holder. As long as you like how it looks (and you have fun doing it), we consider it a retro-style success.

These mini makeovers give your home a fresh feel just in time for spring. And, if you're ready for something a little bigger and more stylish, like a kitchen remodel or bathroom makeover, we know just the place! Stop by one of our Nonn's design showrooms in New Berlin or Menomonee Falls and we'll help you find the home interior products that'll bring your space to life.

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At the Metropolitan Builders Association we believe in Building Industry Connections. Through involvement, events, advertising and sponsorship opportunities, you will connect with people and businesses. At the MBA, you'll find customers, business partners, and build relationships that will last a lifetime.

To apply, head to MBAbuilds.org/Membership-Requirements/Application

Why Should You Join the MBA?



Building Industry Connections

- At the MBA, building connections is what we're about. Connect with:
- New trade contractors to join your team
 - Professional service providers who care about the construction industry
 - Consumers that are looking to build or remodel a home, or simply purchase products and services from an MBA member
 - Builders and Remodelers that are seeking collaboration, insight and staying up-to-date in the industry
 - Public officials who shape our future



A Great Place to Find Great People

Hard work, dedication to excellence, new ideas, creativity. It doesn't just define our Builder and Remodeler members, but our trade contractors, suppliers and service partners. At the MBA all of our members raise the bar on each other, on the construction industry, and on business in general. It's a commitment to being great - not just a membership.



Get Involved, Get Value,
Get Growing

Once you join, you'll want to get involved to get the most out of your membership. The connections you'll form with service providers, trade contractors & suppliers, builders, developers & remodelers are a direct result of maximizing membership.



Membership Equals
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How to Save Money Moving to Your New Home

by **National Home Builders Association**

If you're moving this year, there is a good chance you are incurring a lot of expenses. Whether it's making a large down payment on a new home or purchasing an appliance, the costs of moving can add up. Packing supplies, hiring labor and the time it takes to transport your items to your new home are a large part of overall moving costs. There are several ways you can save some money without sacrificing the quality of movers and materials needed to relocate items to your new space safely and efficiently. The following are a few tips to save you money when moving into a new home.

Purge Before Packing

One of the best ways to cut costs during a move is to not take every item with you. Before you start bubble wrapping or tossing items in boxes,

decide which items you might want to donate or dispose of. Most movers charge hourly. You don't want movers to spend time moving items you'll end up tossing out at your new place. This will also help you save time packing and unpacking.

Host a Yard Sale

A yard sale is a great way to turn your unwanted items into some extra cash. Check with your local city hall to see if your community requires permits for yard sales and find out if you're allowed to hang signs on telephone poles, light posts, etc. to advertise your sale. Your best bet is to start your sale in the morning on the weekend. Bargain hunters start shopping early. Make sure to price items to sell so you aren't left with too many unsold items.

Pack Your Items

Expert moving companies offer a

range of services, which often include packing all the items in your home. You can save hundreds of dollars by packing your possessions. Need a little motivation? Host a friends or family packing party to help you get started. If you have time, organize like items in boxes and clearly label them. For procrastinating packers, prioritize carefully wrapping fragile or delicate items you don't want to be damaged during the move.

Secure Multiple Moving Quotes

The first estimate you receive from a mover may not always be the best. Experts recommend securing at least three bids. Like most businesses, they may be willing to negotiate prices or talk to you about where you can save costs. In general, you'll get the best deal if you move during the off-season, which is October to April. If you move during the peak season, try to

avoid holiday or weekend moves. And the cost to hire movers is typically lower during the middle of the week.

Avoid Buying Supplies

No matter how big or small your move is, you'll likely need boxes. And the price of boxes can add up. Luckily, moving boxes are plentiful and available for free, you just need to know where to look. Start by asking friends and family if they know of people who recently moved if they have boxes they can give you. Most retail locations, like grocery stores, have boxes available for free. You may also have suitable substitutes for packing paper and bubble wrap. Newspapers, blankets, towels or even socks can provide the padding you need to secure your belongings.

For more information please contact the MBA at: info@mbabuilds.org.

Low-Cost Energy Saving Solutions for Your Home

by **National Home Builders Association**

With prices going up on goods and services across the board, you might be looking for ways to lower your household expenses. Now is a great time to think about making some home improvements so you can save money on your utility bills throughout the year. With approximately 13% of greenhouse gas emissions coming directly from buildings due to heating, cooling, and cooking needs, here are a few ways to both save money on energy and reduce your carbon footprint this year.

Get a Free Home Energy Assessment

An energy audit completed by a professional is a great first step to help benchmark where your home stands in terms of energy efficiency, and will give you a better sense of what actions you can take to help improve your home's energy performance.

Weatherize Your Home

You can do this by sealing any notice-

able cracks, particularly around leaky doors and windows. Caulking these areas and weatherstripping can help air-seal troublesome spots in your house. For low- or moderate-income customers, you also might be eligible for the Weatherization Assistance Program to help offset costs.

Add Insulation

After you take steps to air-seal your home, adding insulation to your attic, basement, and walls can go a long way for saving money on electricity - the insulation helps keep the heat inside your house, also making your home more comfortable.

Make Window Improvements

Even if you don't have the upfront cash to upgrade your windows at the moment, less expensive options include caulking, weatherstripping, and adding thicker window coverings to keep you warm during the winter.

Reduce Phantom Loads

Phantom loads include electricity being used by appliances or devices

purely because they are plugged into the walls, even if the device is on standby mode or off. Consider getting a programmable smart power strip, or simply unplug your devices whenever they are not in use.

Check Your Water Heater Settings

Chances are you haven't touched your water heater in years. Try lowering the temperature to reduce your energy use.

Take Advantage of Your Blinds

To best take advantage of the sun, let the natural light in during the day to help heat your house, but close your curtains at night to help lock the heat in.

Close Your Vents and Doors

For rooms you don't use often, consider closing those vents and doors to help eliminate energy waste.

An NAHB Certified Green Professional (CGP)[™] designation is a reliable way

to identify builders, remodelers, manufacturers and other industry professionals who are committed to making your home green. To find a CGP-certified professional to learn more about the latest energy saving techniques for your home, contact the MBA at: info@mbabuilds.org.

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We not only set the construction standards for the metropolitan Milwaukee region ... the Metropolitan Builders Association is the INDUSTRY STANDARD.

The Metropolitan Builders Association (MBA) is the Industry Standard for home building, remodeling, and home improvement projects. The first step in your home building, remodeling or home improvement project is to check with the Metropolitan Builders Association for contractors and resources by visiting MBAonline.org.

Only the very best contractors call themselves an MBA Member because:

- ▶ We conduct Background Checks and Personal Interviews with each new Home Builder or Remodeler Member.
- ▶ Each member must abide by High Ethical Standards.
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Visit MBAbuilds.org for a searchable list of professional contractors.



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