



METROPOLITAN BUILDERS ASSOCIATION SPRING TOUR

WEEKENDS
MARCH 2ND - 17TH



Presented by
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FREE ADMISSION!

MBA Spring Tour Showcases Homes Across Southeastern Wisconsin

The Metropolitan Builders Association (MBA) Spring Tour is back for its 32nd year! The 2024 MBA Spring Tour presented by Nonn's Kitchen Bath and Flooring takes place March 2 to 17, open Saturdays and Sundays from 12 PM to 4 PM. During the three weekends of the Spring Tour, visitors can tour new homes, condominiums, 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 is 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 can talk directly with builders 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 contractors for a remodeling project, or just



want to learn about the latest trends in home design, the 2024 MBA Spring Tour promises to provide an enjoyable experience for all!

These outstanding home builders 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 fre-

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

MBASpringTour.com

Keep your Counters Tidy with Clutter-Resistant Trays



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2024 Spring Tour*

Maintaining an orderly kitchen counter can be a perpetual challenge, especially with the multitude of appliances and essentials that find their way there. Enter clutter-resistant decorative trays - a small yet transformative solution that can significantly elevate the appearance of your counters. See how:

1. Declutter Your Countertop

Begin by minimizing the items on your kitchen counter. Store anything not used daily in nearby cupboards to instantly create a cleaner and more spacious look.

2. Choose Clutter-Resistant Trays

Invest in decorative trays that resist clutter and complement your kitchen decor. Opt for colors that coordinate with your aesthetic for a visually

cohesive appearance.

3. Organize by Category

Categorize the remaining items on your counter and allocate them to



specific trays. For example, group coffee-making essentials on one tray and toaster station items on another.

4. Limit Items per Tray

Maintain a streamlined look by limiting the number of items on each tray to 4-5. This ensures a tidy and visually appealing arrangement.

5. Functional and Aesthetic Benefits

Embrace clutter-resistant trays as a dual-purpose strategy: improving functionality by organizing essentials and enhancing aesthetics by showcasing your most-used items in an organized and attractive manner.

By following these steps, you'll transform your kitchen counter into an efficiently organized and visually pleasing space with the help of clutter-resistant trays.

-The Nonn's Insiders List Team



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Spring Maintenance Tips for your Home

by National Association of Home Builders

Just as spring is a good time for cleaning, it is also a good time for homeowners to do their spring maintenance on their homes. Doing simple preventative maintenance to your house will help the materials used to build it last longer and avoid expensive repair bills later.

Outside Maintenance

- ☐ Make sure your gutters and downspouts are clear of debris that may block the flow of water from your house.
- ☐ Ensure that landscaping around the foundation starts at 8 inches down from the top of your foundation wall and slopes away from the home.
- ☐ Properly grade the area under your downspouts and around your house so that rainwater flows away from the foundation.
- ☐ Caulk around windows, doors, chimney, foundation, and other common leakage points if needed.
- ☐ Inspect for water leaks by checking overhangs, awnings, and exposed siding where snow and water might collect, causing materials to decay.
- ☐ Clean and refinish your wood deck if needed and nail any raised boards; hammer in any popped nails.

- ☐ Inspect the paint to see if there are any cracks and/or exposed wood. If you find some scrape it, apply primer, and more paint.
- ☐ Inspect the shingles and flashing on the roof.
- ☐ Open hose bibs

Inside Maintenance

- ☐ Inspect, repair, and clean the screen doors and windows
- ☐ Check to see if your air filter needs to be changed on your air conditioner.
- ☐ Clean air conditioning coils, and drain pans.
- ☐ Clean dehumidifier coils, check operation
- ☐ Change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- ☐ Clean the inside of the exhaust hose that runs from the back of your dryer and vents to the outside.
- ☐ Check the weather stripping on all windows.
- ☐ Test that your sump pump is working properly
- ☐ Remove, clean, and store storm windows. Put screens up.
- ☐ Make sure your refrigerator door seals tightly. If your refrigerator has coils vacuum the coils.

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Quarry Park, New Berlin



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BRIGHTWATER
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Redford Hills, Sussex



2023 MBA Parade Model

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Wrenwood North, Germantown



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N45W22435 Planetree Trail
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Top 10 Interior Design “Do’s” and “Don’ts”

by National Association of Home Builders

Are you satisfied with your living space, but you think it could be better? You’re not alone. A well-designed space is key to turning your house into your home. You don’t need a dramatic overhaul to your décor to improve its comfort and appeal. And the best spaces should always reflect your own personal style and touch. The following design tips can help turn your space from drab to dreamy.

Interior Design Do’s:

- 1. Plan and prioritize:** Start by creating a clear plan for your space, considering functionality, aesthetics, and budget. Identify the most important elements you want to focus on and allocate resources accordingly.
- 2. Create a cohesive color scheme:** Choose a harmonious color palette that is complementary and sets the mood you want for the space. Stick to



a few key colors to avoid a cluttered look.

- 3. Incorporate natural elements:** Bringing nature indoors can add warmth and tranquility. Consider using natural materials like wood, stone, or plants to create a connection with the outdoors.
- 4. Optimize lighting:** Use a combination of natural and artificial lighting to enhance the ambiance and functionality of the space. Incorporate task lighting, ambient lighting, and accent lighting for various purposes.

5. Invest in quality furniture: Good-quality furniture not only looks better but also lasts longer. Focus on comfort and durability when choosing pieces for your home.

Interior Design Don’ts:

- 1. Overcrowd the space:** Avoid cluttering your rooms with too many unnecessary items. Leave enough breathing space to allow the design elements to shine.
- 2. Follow trends blindly:** While it’s essential to stay updated with design trends, don’t feel obligated to incorporate them all. Choose elements that resonate with your style and preferences.
- 3. Neglect functionality:** No matter how beautiful a design is, it should also be practical and functional. Ensure that the layout and furniture

arrangement facilitate easy movement and usage.

4. Hang artwork incorrectly: Artwork should be hung at eye level and should complement the furniture and the overall design theme.

5. Rely solely on overhead lighting: Overhead lighting can create harsh shadows and a one-dimensional feel. Mix various lighting sources to create a warm and inviting atmosphere.

When it comes to interior design, what matters most is that you create spaces that reflect your personality and make you feel comfortable and happy. These do’s and don’ts can serve as general guidelines, but don’t be afraid to bend the rules if it leads to a space that truly resonates with you.

For more information on how to design or construct your home, visit www.MBAbuilds.org.



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How to Find an Honest Contractor

by Dean Frederick, President
Metropolitan Builders Association
of Greater Milwaukee, Inc.

Severe weather may be approaching with the arrival of the winter months. If Mother Nature damages your home, you may need to call a professional for help. Unfortunately, not all professionals are looking out for a homeowner's best interest. After natural or man-made disasters, unscrupulous contractors try to profit from a community's misfortune.

You may not be able to stop unexpected damage to your home, but a fly-by-night contractor is one disaster you can prevent. There are a few simple steps you can take to ensure you hire a reputable professional. You can follow these guidelines when evaluating any potential contractor, whether for post-disaster repairs or a planned renovation to your home.

Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

Price and payment

- Don't get pressured into signing a contract immediately. You should not be told that you need to sign a contract that day or risk a price increase.
- Paying a deposit of anywhere from 20 percent to 50 percent is typical; however, you should not be asked to pay the full cost in advance before work begins.
- Make sure you're comfortable with the payment options. You should not be asked to pay cash to a salesperson instead of a check, money order or credit card.

References

- Confirm that the contractor has a verifiable mailing address for their business.
- Check <https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/SelfService/LicenseLookUp.aspx> to ensure the business has no unresolved complaints.



- Ask the contractor to provide references for past work and be sure the references can be reached.
 - Check out the business on consumer review sites such as HomeAdvisor, Houzz, etc. Remember to take the good with the bad when reading online reviews.
- ### Contract and completion
- Be cautious of anyone who tells you that "a contract won't be necessary." Insist on a complete and clearly written contract signed by you and the contractor.
 - Ensure the final payment is due once the job is completely finished and you are satisfied. Find out if any of the work requires city or county inspection, confirm that it is done and that you have paperwork proving it before making the final payment.

Following these guidelines will help you select a contractor who will do quality work and stand behind it. To learn more about finding a reliable contractor with an established business in our community, visit www.MBAbuilds.org.

Residential Construction Offers High Paying Career Paths

by Metropolitan Builders Association of Greater Milwaukee, Inc.

Careers in residential construction are rewarding professionally and financially. Skilled trades such as carpentry or plumbing do not require a four-year degree. In addition, many skills tradespeople do not have to wait to complete training to start earning income. Apprenticeship opportunities in the skilled trades allow students can earn while they learn. Once training is complete, skilled trades professionals have strong earning potential.

According to the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and a National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) analysis, half of the payroll workers in construction earn more than \$54,540 and the top 25% make at least \$77,030. The BLS publishes wages for more than 400 occupations in construction. Here is a closer look at the median salaries among the highest-paid wages in construction based on the most recent data available (2022).

Plumbers: The median wage for plumbers was \$60,070 in 2022. Plumbers install, repair, and maintain pipes in residential, commercial and/or industrial buildings. In general, plumbers are excellent listeners and problem-solvers. As long as there are complex water systems in and outside of homes, there will be a need for reliable plumbers.

Electricians: Qualified electricians are always in demand. The median wage for electricians was \$59,300. Electricians have excellent analytical skills, adept at diagnosing problems and work with a variety of tools and technology.

Brickmasons: Laying brick is one of the oldest and most respected trades in the construction industry. Masonry construction uses brick, stone, marble, granite, travertine, limestone, concrete block, glass block, stucco,



and tile. The median wage for brickmasons is \$59,130 annually.

Carpenters: Carpenters are needed in all construction areas and are often employed throughout the entire construction process. Thus, it is one of the most secure jobs in the industry. The best carpenters are critical thinkers who are detail-oriented. Skilled carpenters earn \$52,400 annually.

First-Line Supervisors: Seasoned tradespeople have the opportunity to manage people and projects. First-line supervisors play a key role in making sure projects are completed on time and budget. The median wage for an employee in this role is \$74,330.

The MBA has partnered with the Home Building Trades Foundation and Women In Construction In Wisconsin with scholarships for students in the trades. Visit www.MBAbuilds.org or www.homebuildingtradesfoundation.org for more information on skilled trade training programs, apprenticeships, and career opportunities.



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