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We will be accepting consignments Friday & Saturday, April 18 $^{\rm h}$ & 19 $^{\rm h}$, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Monday-Thursday, April 21 $^{\rm st}$ - 24 $^{\rm h}$, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. No consignments accepted Friday & Saturday, April 25th & 26th.

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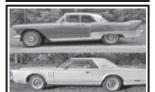
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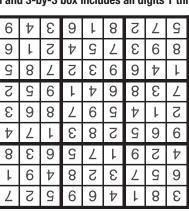
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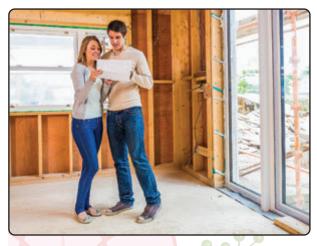
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Tips to Renovate on a Budget



Renovations around the house require an investment of time and often considerable amounts of money. Findings from the 2024 U.S. Houzz & Home Study show that home renovations are becoming more expensive. The median renovation spending for homeowners has gone up 60 percent since 2020. Angi, a home services website, reports the average renovation cost for homes between 1,250 and 1,600 square feet is \$51,772, but the final cost of home renovations depends on the scope of the project.

Homeowners who are conserving funds can rest assured that it is possible to make meaningful changes both inside and outside a home without breaking the bank. Here are some ways to renovate a home on a budget.

- · Create a budget and don't waver. Figure out exactly what you can afford for a renovation and then make that your maximum dollars spent. Research comparable projects in your area and be honest about whether you can afford the renovation as-is or if you must adapt ideas to fit your price. Make sure to build in a cushion of around 15 to 20 percent for any unforeseen expenses renovation is underway.
- · Maximize an existing floor plan. This Old House suggests looking for ways to maximize your current layout before you invest in major renovations like an expansion. Bring in a designer with an eye for utilizing space. For example, see how you might be able to replace shelves with pull-

out drawers in the kitchen. Moving furniture around or rethinking floor plans also can help to lower costs.

- · Balance DIY with hiring contractors. You can save money by tackling some projects yourself, but only if you are confident in your renovation skills. Rather than risk making costly mistakes and having to redo things, hire wellvetted professionals but ask if there's any DIY work you can do to cut costs.
- Check clearance and resale stores. Shop discount stores for building materials to save money. For example, if a builder ordered too many cabinets they may offer them to Habitat for Humanity ReStores, which are nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers. Checking the clearance and markdown sections of other stores may yield considerable savings on items needed for a renovation. Warehouse that may arise once a retailers like Costco or Sam's Club also can be great places to find certain home improvement materials and furnishings.
 - · Take advantage of free services. Certain stores may offer things like free consultations with designers who can show you what a renovation can look like. This is advantageous to the stores

because once you see the potential vou're more likely to buy the products, even if it's not mandatory.

· Resurface instead of redo. Certain items can be made to look new with minimal effort. Paint is a relatively inexpensive tool that can transform walls and more. A good flooring hardwood company can buff out a floor and put a new coating instead of an entirely new floor. Kitchen cabinets can

be resurfaced instead of replaced as well.

Finding ways to perform home renovations on a budget may require some creative thinking, but it's possible to get results at the right price point.

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4 Things to Know About Kitchen Renovations



Kitchens are often described as the most popular room in a home. and that's not mere conjecture. A 2022 survey from House Digest asked participants to identify the room they consider most important in their homes, and roughly 41 percent chose the kitchen.

Residents tend congregate in kitchens in the morning and then again in the evening when meals are prepared and, in homes without formal dining rooms, eaten. With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's no wonder that the 2022 U.S. Houzz & Home Study: Renovation



Trends found kitchens to be the most popular interior room to upgrade. With so many people interested in kitchen renovations, the following are four things homeowners should know about these popular improvement projects.

1. Expect to spend some money. Most home improvement projects require significant а financial investment, but kitchen renovations are among the more expensive undertakings. The overall cost of a project will depend on a host of variables unique to each home, including homeowners' preferences, but HomeAdvisor estimated

> remodel in 2023 cost between \$14,611 and \$41,432. Homeowners considering an upscale kitchen remodel may receive six figure estimates for such projects.



2. Expect a good return on investment. If sticker shock settles in when receiving an initial kitchen remodel estimate, perhaps it can help homeowners to know that such a project may provide a strong return on investment (ROI). According to Remodeling magazine's "2024 Cost vs. Value Report," a minor kitchen remodel provides

a 96 percent ROI. A major kitchen remodel mid-range (49 percent) and a major kitchen remodel upscale (38 percent) did not provide as notable a ROI.

3. Expect the project to take some time. Kitchens are large rooms with a lot of components, so renovating these spaces can take some time. Estimates vary depending on the size of the room. the scale of the remodel and the materials chosen, but Angi reports a kitchen remodel for most homes takes six weeks to four months. That's a sizable window, and it reflects the likelihood that unforeseen issues like supply chain interruptions or the discovery of mold will arise at some point during the renovation. Though it's impossible to determine precisely how long a project will take before it begins, homeowners renovating their kitchens may want to plan for the project to take two months if not longer.

4. Expect to use your kitchen during the renovation. If the timeline of a renovation is scary, homeowners should know they will likely be able to use their kitchen even after the project begins. Though the room might not remain a popular gathering space once the work starts, Angi notes kitchens are typically out of commission for around six weeks during a renovation. That still requires some pre-planning in relation to meals, but it also suggests homeowners won't be without a kitchen for months on end

Kitchen renovations popular projects. Homeowners who know what to expect before such projects commence can make it through a renovation more smoothly.













Spring Planting Pointers

Many people view spring as a season of rejuvenation. That renewal may be somewhat metaphorical for human beings, but it's literal for lawns and gardens that begin to grow anew as temperatures rise and hours of daylight increase in spring.

Each spring presents opportunity for homeowners to get back outside and tend to their gardens. As temperatures rise, homeowners can consider these spring planning pointers to ensure their landscapes look lush and full in the months

• Start with the soil. Soil can serve as the starting point each spring. Winter can take its toll on a garden and even overwhelm the area with debris over the colder months. Clear rocks and other debris from the area before loosening the soil. The Farmer's Almanac recommends loosening soil to a depth of at least eight inches if planting a new garden. An existing garden may only need to be loosened to a depth of around six inches, after which homeowners can mix compost into the soil in early spring. Compost is

organic matter that provides nutrients and helps to build strong plant roots.

• Consider a raised garden in colder climates.

The Farmer's Almanac notes

raised gardens can help homeowners in colder climates dry out and warm up wet, cold soils more quickly. Homeowners in such regions also can cover their beds with black plastic or cardboard prior to planting. Doing so can protect the beds from lateseason snow and spring rains and also helps to overcome erosion.

· Take soil temperatures. Unpredictable weather is among the noticeable effects of climate change in recent years. That lack of predictability can make spring planting a little more tricky than it once was. Experts note that soil temperatures around 50 F are best for cool-season crops, while soil should be 60 F or warmer when planting warm-weather plants such as tomatoes.

• Work with a garden center to identify what to plant. The right plants for one region may not be ideal for another, so homeowners are urged to work with a



local landscaper or garden center before planting. Such a consultation can be especially useful for homeowners planting a new garden. Landscapers and garden center professionals will know which plants work in the local climate.

• Consider planting vegetables in the spring. Various garden experts note that spring is an ideal time to plant a vegetable garden. If planted at the right time, a vegetable garden can save homeowners money on their grocery bills and

provide a season's worth of fresh veggies. Lettuce and spinach are sun- and shade-friendly vegetables, which can make them good options for a spring garden. Cool-season root vegetables, which include beets, carrots and swiss chard, are some other notable veggies that can thrive in early spring.

Spring is a season of rejuvenation for gardens. That's even more true when homeowners consider some conventional planting wisdom in early spring.







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How to Decide Between a Deck or Pavers in an Outdoor Remodel

Outdoor living spaces have become soughtafter commodities among homeowners. A 2022 survey of homeowners conducted by the New Home Trends Institute found that open yards are less appealing to home buyers than they once were. The survey noted that just 28 percent of respondents chose open yards, while 65 percent preferred patios and 55 percent chose decks. Green spaces remain popular, but the survey indicates that many would-be home buyers also want an outdoor living area to make the most of their home exteriors.

Homeowners aspiring to transform their home exterior spaces typically must decide between a deck or pavers when the time comes to plan such areas. That's a personal choice homeowners must make, but those without strong feelings on either option can consider these tips as they try to decide if a deck or pavers are for them.

• Determine your budget. Budget is a notable variable with any home renovation project, and the addition of an outdoor living space is no exception. The materials homeowners choose will



ultimately determine the cost of each project. For example, composite decking materials tend to cost significantly more than wood decks, but that higher price tag also comes with less maintenance and typically a longer life span. Pavers may prove less expensive than composite decking, but those cost savings may be negligible if a yard requires extensive excavation to prepare an area for a new patio. It requires patience, but gathering estimates of the various materials can serve as a good starting point when planning an outdoor living space. In addition, homeowners must recognize that material costs can fluctuate considerably over time, as such prices are often contingent on a range of variables, including supply chain issues. So it's best to gather estimates in a short period of time to make the most accurate price comparisons.

• Identify your vision for the space. Homeowners who have a vision for their

outdoor living space, even if they are not sure about which material they prefer, may find the process goes more quickly and even more smoothly than those who are unsure about what they want. Those who prefer a flexible multi-use space may be best going with pavers, as the spaces can be easily converted and areas simply designated as one might differentiate between rooms inside the home. For example, an outdoor living room can be separated with the installation of a pavillion and fireplace, while kitchen and dining areas can be separate spaces on the same patio. Decks tend to be less flexible, which might make them ideal for homeowners who prefer an outdoor dining area but don't need a more expansive entertaining space. Of course, decks can be as big as homeowners choose, which can make the spaces more multi-functional.

• Recognize both may be in your best interest. Homeowners also should know that many outdoor living spaces feature both a deck and a paver patio. Homeowners may like an elevated deck that steps down to a patio, which can easily distinguish between the spaces and establish the area as a multifunctional space. Homeowners planning outdoor living space projects may find themselves choosing

between a deck and pavers. Each option can work, and homeowners may even want to combine the two.





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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Meaning Of Easter

Dear Reader,

Easter is upon us, a time great celebration for Christians around the world. It is the day we proclaim, Christ is risen!—a moment of triumph over death, of hope restored, and of love eternal. But what does this truly mean? It means embracing faith—not just in

the historical event of the Resurrection, but in the promise that, just as He rose, He will come again. It is a reminder that life is more than what we see before us, that there is a deeper purpose, and that goodness, love. and faith lead to something far greater.

For children, Easter is often marked by the joy of waking up to baskets filled with candies, chocolates, and bright-colored treats. They search eagerly for hidden eggs, trusting with pure hearts that the Easter Bunny has come, just as he does every year. Their delight is simple and beautiful, a reflection of the wonder and innocence of childhood.



But for adults, Easter carries a weightier significance. After the solemn season of Lent-a time of fasting, reflection, and sacrifice-Easter is a moment of renewal. It is a time to rejoice in the promise of redemption, to embrace the idea that goodness on this earth matters, and to reaffirm that our choices

have eternal significance.

If you believe, then know this: the good you do in this world is not in vain. Love, kindness, and faith shape not only our lives but also our eternity. Easter reminds us that beyond the struggles, beyond the sacrifices, there is the promise of everlasting joy. It is a celebration not just of an event from long ago, but of the hope that guides us today and always.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Easter.

PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher

Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.





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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dark blacks
- 7. Construct a wall to confine
- 13. Most inappropriate
- 14. A type of board
- 16. Sacred Hindu syllable
- 17. Flatterer
- 19. The Granite State
- 20. Tears down
- 22. China's Chairman
- 23. Former Houston

footballer

- 25. Periods of time
- 26. Expressed pleasure
- 28. World alliance
- 29. A Brit's mother
- 30. Television network
- 31. Brother or sister
- 33. Type of spirit 34. __ Ladd, actor
- 36. A medium oversees it
- 38. One time province of
- British India
- 40. Wrong
- 41. The highest parts of something
- 43. Insect
- 44. Baseball stat
- 45. A way to use up
- 47. Where wrestlers compete
- 48. It helps elect politicians
- 51. As fast as can be done
- 53. Genus of legumes
- 55. Samoa's capital
- 56. Monument in Jakarta
- 58. Former French coin
- 59. Exploiters
- 60. College sports official
- 61. Uninterrupted in time
- 64. Stephen King story
- 65. Marked by no sound

- 67. Weathers
- 69. Denouncements
- 70. More beloved

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Winged nut
- 2. It cools a home
- 3. Kisses (French)
- 4. Oxford political economist
- 5. Keyboard key
- 6. Leaf pores
- 7. Agrees with publicly
- 8. Not around
- 9. Czech city
- 10. Muscle cell protein
- 11. Greek letter
- 12. Movements
- 13. Ned __, composer
- 15. Popular series Game of ____
- 18. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 21. Helper
- 24. Gift
- 26. Up in the air (abbr.)

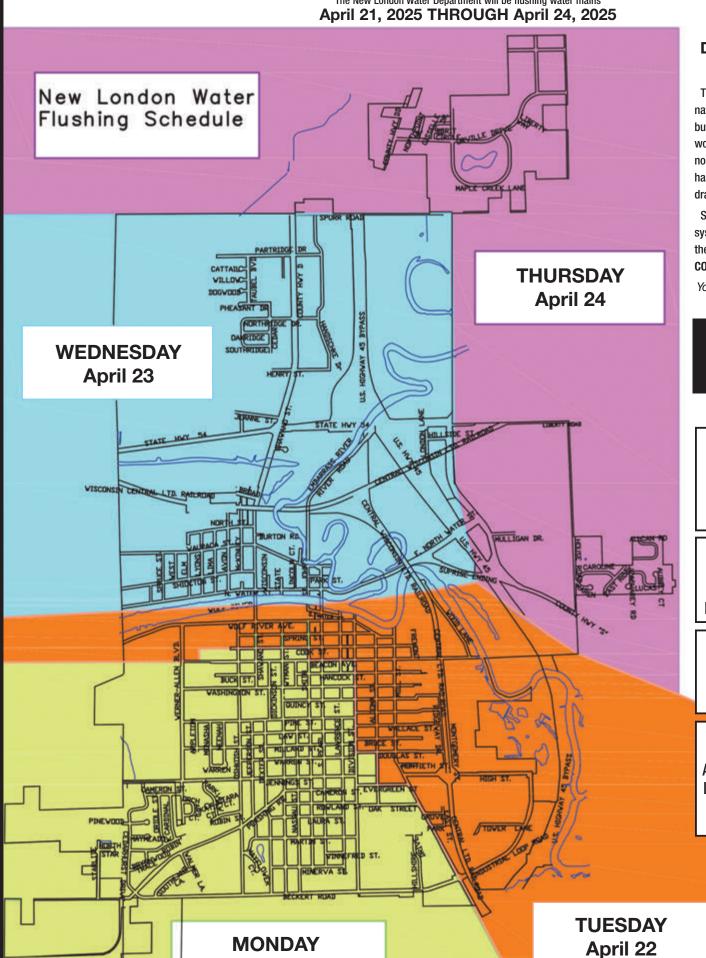
- 27. Treat without respect
- 30. Trims
- 32. Slang for lovely
- 35. City of Angels hoopster (abbr.)
- 37. Guitarists' tool
- 38. Island nation
- 39. Delivered in installments
- 42. A baglike structure
- 43. Cooking vessel
- 46. Gets in front of
- 47. Wounded by scratching
- 49. More breathable
- 50. Medical dressings
- 52. Indiana hoopster
- 54. Married Marilyn
- 55. An ancient Assyrian city 57. Congressmen (abbr.)
- 59. Approves food
- 62. Ventura's first name
- 63. Between northeast and
- 66. Atomic #71
- 68. Email designation

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C N B 2 E 2 D E V B E B

NOTICE TO NEW LONDON WATER CUSTOMERS

The New London Water Department will be flushing water mains



April 21

THE FLUSHING WILL BE DONE

DURING THE HOURS FROM 6:00 AM TO 6:00 PM.

This main flushing will remove most of the natural minerals such as iron that are harmless but will discolor the water. If you see the men working in your area, use as little or, if possible, no water for 1 to 2 hours to insure that the water has settled down and that the discoloration is not drawn into your water system.

Should you find discoloration in your water system, again stop using water, wait 1 to 2 hours, then draw off the discolored water through the **COLD** water only.

Your help and cooperation in this program will benefit all water customers.

FLUSHING SCHEDULE **AS FOLLOWS:**



MONDAY April 21:

All Customers in High Pressure Zone -**Shaded Green**

TUESDAY April 22:

All Customers in Primary Pressure Zone – Shaded Orange

WEDNESDAY April 23:

All Customers in Primary Zone and North Zone - Shaded Blue

THURSDAY April 24:

All Customers in the North East New **London Business Center and County** S from Hwy 54 to Mosquito Hill -Shaded Fuchsia.

NOTE: CUSTOMERS CLOSE TO THE BORDERS OF THESE AREAS MAY BE AFFECTED FOR TWO DAYS.

If you have any problems or auestions. please feel to call our office at 920-982-8516.

Thank You, **NEW LONDON UTILITY** WATER DEPARTMENT



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Saturday, May 3, 2025

Deadline: Tuesday, **April 22** 5:00 PM

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL Place your ad by April 16 and receive 7 lines for the price of 5!

ILLAGE WIDE

Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 10, 2025

EARLY BIRD **SPECIAL** Place your ad by April 23 and receive 7 lines for the price of 5!

Deadline: Tuesday, **April 29** 5:00 PM

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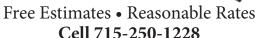
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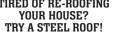
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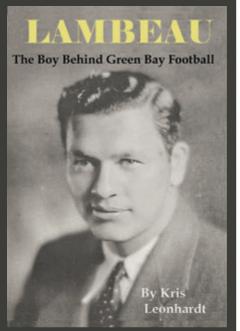
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of dedication that will inspire fans and readers alike. If you love football, community and tales of grit, this book is a must-read.

The story of the beginning of the Green Bay Packers and the life of Earl Louis "Curly" Lambeau are so intertwined that it is hard to imagine one without the other.

From the streets of Green Bay, Lambeau developed a passion for football and grew that yearning into a football team that would exist long past his lifetime.

Like the Packers, Lambeau's story is a tale of adversity and challenge, but also a story of triumph and perseverance. While his personal life and professional career were wrought with challenge, his legacy continues to resonate in the Green Bay

community, including a massive structure along Lombardi Avenue that shines a light on his contribution to the professional team.

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The *Dial A Pro* grouping will be running the 4th week of each month where readers will turn to when they need a *Pro!*



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