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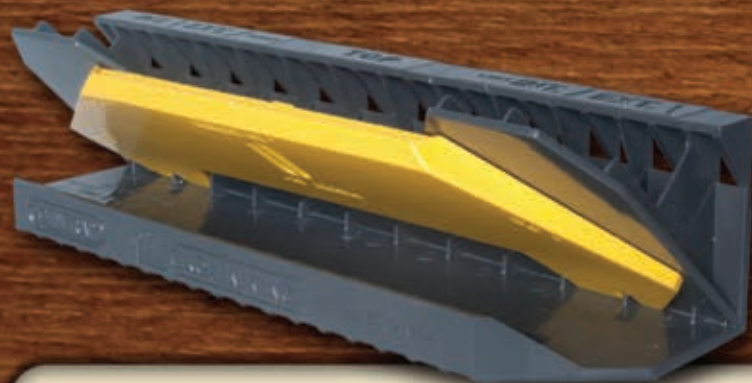


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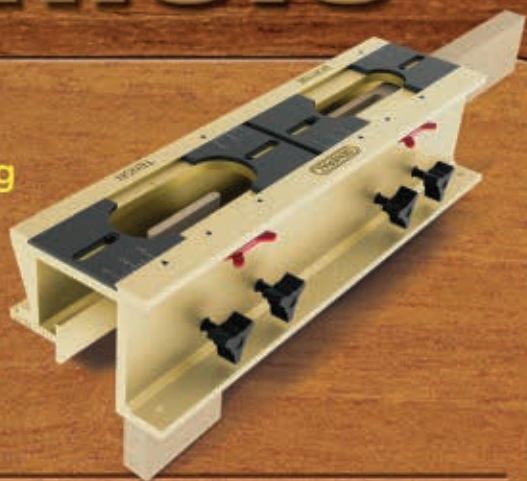
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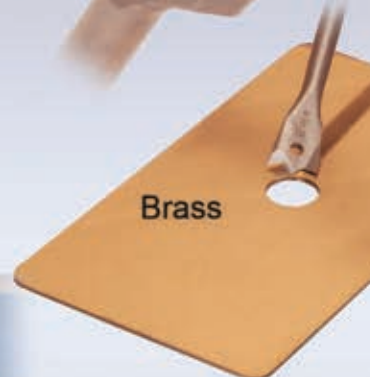
The revolutionary **KIK**<sup>®</sup> **Spade Bit** has over 30% more cutting surface making them much faster and longer lasting than standard spade bits. There is no protruding tang to bend or break allowing these bits to even bore non-ferrous sheet metals and curved holes too! Tested and Proven Superior by an Independent Lab.



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6 Cutting Edges



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- **Bores Curved Paths Channels**

- **Bores Through Acrylics Cleanly Without Melting** Able to Bore 90 Degree Curved Paths

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# SHARPEN YOUR BITS

## EASY & PRECISE

Quickly sharpen your dull bits back to the original factory standard or better, simply follow the 3 easy steps: align, sharpen, and split.

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- Create a consistent 118° point angle
- Sharpens from 3/32" to 1/2" bits

### SHOP

The **XP** model is perfect for the serious do-it-yourselfer. It packs plenty of features to keep your bits sharp.

- Create a consistent 118° point angle
- Sharpens from 3/32" to 1/2" bits
- Create self-centering split points

### PRO

The **500X** and **750X** are top of the line models. They offer the widest array of sharpening options including:

- Variable point angle [from 115° to 140°]
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\*With optional 3/4" chuck for 500X
- Self-centering split points

WATCH  
DEMO



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Doctor**  
The Drill Bit Sharpener

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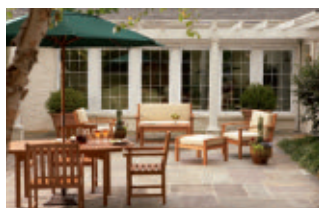
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The RSS is an ÜberGrade™ alternative to old-fashioned lag screws.

The *EHT* staff recently spent a week in Las Vegas at the International Builders' Show. The convention is an annual showplace for all manner of construction materials, technologies, tools and trends, and building professionals from all over the world convene to get the latest scoop on industry news. As I talked with many of the veteran craftsmen on the show floor, I noticed a pervasive mood among the discussions: optimism.

The *EHT* staff attends the IBS convention every year, but the last few have been a little dreary, tinged by a negative outlook within the housing sector after many consecutive months in a struggling industry. Some remodeling contractors were scraping by, but builders of new homes had it rough. The number of show attendees and exhibitors had dwindled, and often when speaking with exhibitors you couldn't help but notice a lot of forced smiles hiding otherwise long faces.

This year was different. After feeling a little relief in 2012, the exhibitors and attendees both had a little more pep in their step and a more positive outlook toward the year ahead. The reality on the ground remains to be seen, but the pervasive attitude that things will turnaround was encouraging to witness.

And beyond the anecdotal evidence at IBS, a handful of industry analysts seem to agree that we can expect good things to come. A new report from the Portland Cement Association (PCA) projects "total housing starts to reach 954,000 units in 2013, reflecting further improvement on 2012's nearly 30-percent growth."

The Window & Door Manufacturers Association (WDMA) and the American Architectural Manufacturers Association (AAMA) have jointly released a U.S. Industry Statistical Review and Forecast: "New residential construction activity for 2012 is expected to close at 818,000 units, a 23.9-percent improvement as compared to 2011 ... The study forecasts similar improvement for 2013, and continues to predict an even stronger 31-percent new residential construction improvement for 2014 over 2013."

Plus, the remodeling sector is still in good shape. In January the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) reported that "current and future remodeling business conditions have experienced significant growth across all indicators, with forecasting in the next three months hitting its all-time highest level."

Maybe sunny days are here again. For the moment it appears that things are looking up, so let's cross our fingers and hope we can keep things on the right track.



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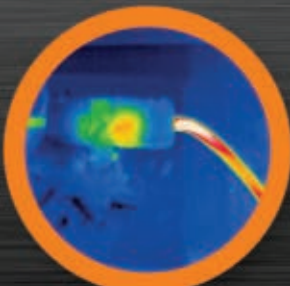
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**Q:** A local construction company offers a "helical pier system" when building a deck. How does this type of system work?

**A:** Helical piers are steel foundation pins that are driven into the earth below the frost line. Installation requires expensive hydraulic machinery (i.e. a skid steer or excavator). The system is often used in commercial construction, but is gaining popularity for deck construction in smaller areas and on tricky sites, such as steep inclines or poor soil conditions, where it is otherwise difficult to dig footings and pour a concrete foundation.

**Q:** Is the equipment required to add spray foam insulation available for rent?

**A:** The specialized equipment necessary to apply spray foam insulation is typically owned or leased by the contractor and not available for consumer rental. However, for small areas, a few companies offer "do-it-yourself" kits that are both portable and disposable. For instance, RHH Foam Systems offers the Versi-Foam kits available in a variety of sizes and types, including open-cell, closed-cell, high-density and slow-rise foam insulation for a wide range of applications. Check out the options at [www.rhhfoamsystems.com](http://www.rhhfoamsystems.com).

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**Q:** Should I be concerned about expansion and contraction when installing PEX tubing?

**A:** PEX expands and contracts at a greater rate than copper, so don't install it too tightly and be sure to allow a little slack between fasteners. In fact, on long runs many professionals will include a loop to allow for contraction. The loop also provides some extra piping in case the installer needs some fudge room to make adjustments. When running the piping through framing, make sure the access holes are a little larger than the PEX to allow for expansion.

**Q:** I have a large, intrusive air duct along the ceiling of my basement and it's posing a problem for me to finish the room into a living space. What are my options for relocating it?

**A:** You need the duct system to continue transferring an adequate amount of airflow to condition your home, which leaves you with three options. First, you can re-route the duct. Second, you can split the single large duct into smaller ducts and re-route them accordingly. Third, you can have the large boxy air duct replaced with a wider but flatter section of ductwork, which can sometimes provide several extra inches of headroom. **EHT**



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**VS**

**VS**

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# Latest in Sharpening Tools



*A new Tool Bar Attachment for the Work Sharp 3000 provides a faster, more consistent and repeatable way to sharpen chisels and lathe tools.*

can be fitted with a variety of abrasive grits on both the top and underside of the wheel. Wide tools like plane blades can be sharpened on the top side of the wheel using the adjustable tool rest. Narrow tools, such as chisels, can be sharpened from the underside of the wheel, using the adjustable sharpening port. This port sharpens angles of 20, 25, 30 and 35 degrees to match the bevel of chisels and plane irons up to 2-in. wide. The port also features an abrasive surface that removes burrs from the tool during sharpening. The system's routed airflow and heat sink keeps tools cool without the mess of water.

A new Tool Bar Attachment for the WS3000 provides a faster,



*For the woodworker, the WS3000 is an air-cooled dry sharpening system designed for a wide range of wood tools, from chisels, planes and carving tools to lathe tools and spoke shaves.*

**By Matt Weber**

A cutting tool is only as good as its blade, which is why professionals and savvy DIY'ers recognize the importance of regular sharpening. The act of shaping wood or stone into a cutting tool is as old as mankind, but today's sharpening systems make the job easier and more efficient than ever before. Here's a look at the latest devices to give your tools that razor edge.

## **ELECTRIC TOOL SHARPENERS**

One of the leaders in electric tool-sharpening systems for the

home is the Darex Company, which manufactures both the Work Sharp and Drill Doctor line of products.

For the woodworker, the Work Sharp WS3000 Wood Tool Sharpener is an air-cooled dry sharpening system for a wide range of cutting tools, from chisels, planes and carving tools to lathe tools and spoke shaves. Sharpen more quickly, easily and cleanly than ever. Powered by a 1/5-horsepower motor with high-torque max wheel speed of 580 RPM, the WS3000 uses a tempered glass grinding wheel that

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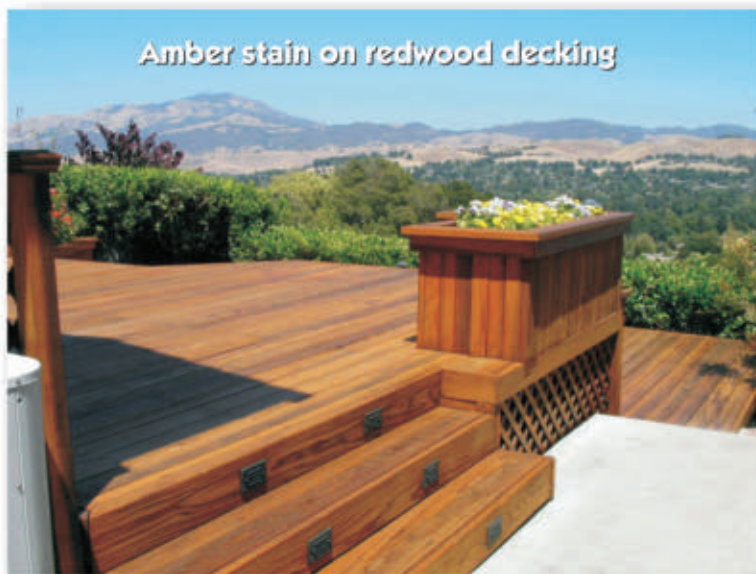
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more consistent and repeatable way to sharpen lathe turning tools, even on very complex grind types. The Tool Bar Attachment also provides improved freehand sharpening to all sides of the grinding wheel.

DIY Metalworkers should check out the Work Sharp WS2000 Metal Workers Tool Sharpener & Grinder. Like the woodworking version, the WS2000 offers three ways to sharpen and grind your tools: Top Side with Tool Rest, the Chisel and Plane Iron Port, and the Edge-Vision Port (which utilizes a see-through slotted wheel to see the tool as it's being sharpened from below). The system sharpens chisel and plane blades up to 1-5/8-in. wide to a perfect 25-deg. The WS2000 also sharpens lawn mower blades, axes, scrapers, putty knives and more. The horizontal grinding wheel of the WS2000 provides a larger grinding area and better control than a vertical grinding wheel. (Visit [www.worksharptools.com](http://www.worksharptools.com))



*The WS2000 Metal Workers Tool Sharpener & Grinder offers three ways to sharpen and grind your tools: Top Side with Tool Rest, the Chisel and Plane Iron Port, and the Edge-Vision Port.*

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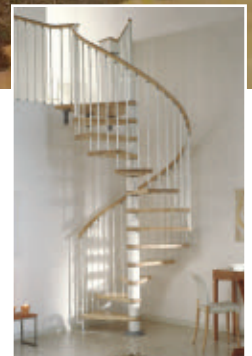
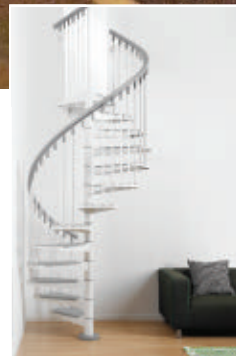
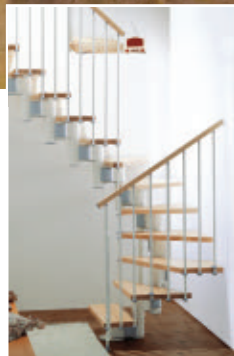
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*The Swedish-built Tormek T-7 is one of the most versatile wet grinder systems on the market.*

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## KNIFE SHARPENERS

Whether you're carving wood in the workshop or slicing onions in the kitchen, a sharp knife is the key to success. For a powered solution, the Work Sharp Knife & Tool Sharpener (WSKTS) uses a flexible belt-sharpening technology that conforms to any shape of blade to hone any knife fast and with repeatable results. Easily sharpen hunting knives, kitchen knives, pocket knives, serrated blades and other blades to a shaving sharp edge. Powered by an electric motor, the WSKTS operates with easily replaceable abrasive grit belts and won't burn or damage blade steel.



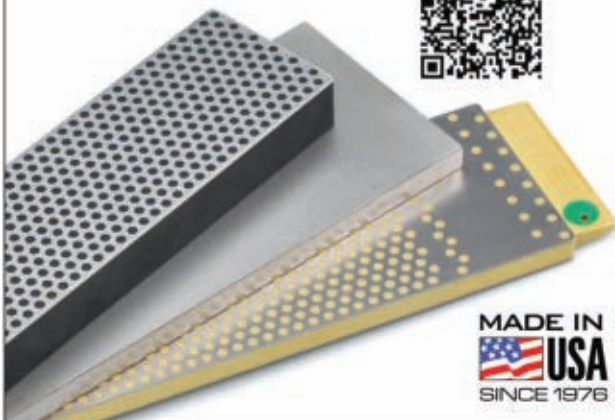
An electric knife sharpener, the WSKTS uses a flexible belt-sharpening technology that conforms to any shape of blade to renew any type of knife.

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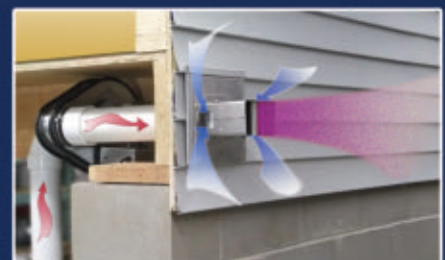


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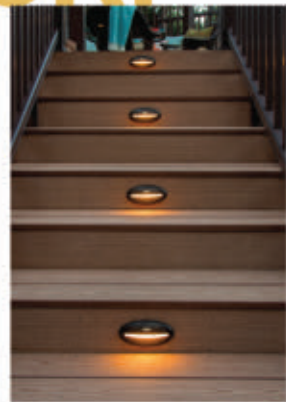


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For tool sharpening "on the fly", the Work Sharp Guided Field Sharpener 2.2.1. is a complete knife sharpener for field, home or shop use. This manual tool is the first angle-guided, 5-stage sharpener designed for a complete, compact field solution. The WSGFS221 features two diamond plates, two ceramic rods, one leather strop and sharpening guides to provide fast, easy and consistent sharpening. The 20- and 25-deg. sharpening guides create consistent blade-edge angles for your hunting knives, pocket knives and filet knives. Strong rare earth magnets secure the easily interchangeable diamond plates and also provide coverage for the broadhead wrench and small storage compartment.

For an easy-to-use and budget-friendly knife sharpener, the AccuSharp Knife and Tool Sharpener is a handy gadget that anyone can use. The honing blades are diamond-honed tungsten carbide for years of reliable knife sharpening. Just draw the AccuSharp over the blade and in about 10 seconds you can sharpen cleavers, axes, machetes and even serrated knives. The full length finger guard protects your fingers, and the safety hand grip prevents cuts. Available for less than 10 bucks, the AccuSharp Knife Sharpeners will not rust and can be cleaned in the dishwasher.

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**DIAMOND SHARPENERS**

The Diafold Folding Sharpener from DMT are easy to use, compact sharpeners for the toolbox, tackle box, home or on-the-go. These devices use a micronized diamond-grit abrasive that covers evenly across the sharpening surface to remain effective year after year. The lightweight folding models are available in a wide range of diamond grits to solve an assortment of sharpening, abrading and honing challenges. They can handle any edge, straight, curved or serrated. Choose from double- or single-sided sharpeners. The Diafold Serrated Sharpener has a conical file blade to handle serrated edges, and the Diafold Flat File is an excellent sharpener for narrow spaces such as pruners and loppers. Each model in the

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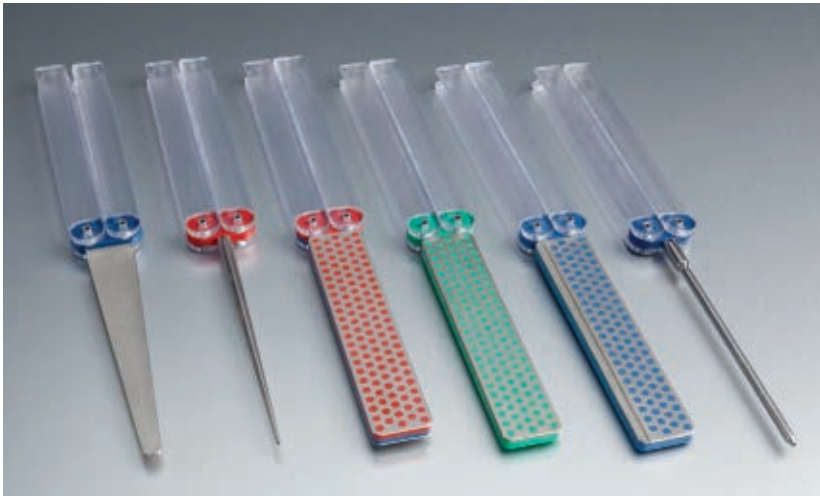
Diafold line features new see-through handles manufactured from tough engineered resin, and for the green-minded consumer the new packaging is smaller, lighter and uses 93 percent less plastic.

**DRILL BIT SHARPENERS**

Drill Doctor has been an *Extreme How-To* workshop staple for years. The best bit sharpener on the market, Drill Doctor is available in five models to keep your bits razor sharp and ready

for action. The machines are simple to align for sharpening drill bits ranging from 3/32 to 3/4 inch. (depending on model).

With just a few easy turns of the dual cam sharpener in the Drill Doctor 750X, you can restore the cutting edge of your bits in minutes. The 750X shop model has the flexibility required to sharpen the largest range of dull or broken bits, including split points and masonry bits. It sharpens variable point angles from



*The Diafold Folding Sharpeners from DMT are easy to use, compact sharpeners that use a micronized diamond-grit abrasive to remain effective year after year.*

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The baseline Drill Doctor Model 350X simplifies the process for hobbyists and DIY'ers with on-chuck alignment which eliminates the alignment port for even easier sharpening. Using a replaceable diamond wheel, the 350X sharpens 3/32- to 1/2-in. bits to a 118-deg. point angle.

Drill Doctor Model DDSB is a precision machine that sharpens both twist and spade bits. The spade bit module uses an industrial-grade profiled, vitrified wheel to sharpen spade bits from 1/4 to 1-1/2 in., including specialty spade bits with screw points and spurs.



*Available in five models, a Drill Doctor keeps your bits razor sharp and ready for action. The machines are simple to align for sharpening 3/32" to 3/4" drill bits (depending on model).*

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*The spade bit module of the Drill Doctor DDSB uses an industrial-grade profiled wheel to sharpen spade bits from 1/4" to 1-1/2" including specialty spade bits with screw points and spurs.*

**CHAINSAW SHARPENERS**

Billed as "the ultimate chainsaw sharpener", the Timberline Chainsaw Sharpener gives the ability to sharpen your chain on the go. This portable device prevents work stoppages spent searching for a repair shop. The traditional method of using round files to sharpen chain blades can take a lot of time and practice. The Timberline Sharpener guarantees accurate and precise angles on every tooth as a solid platform guides the carbide cutter into each tooth.

A sharp chainsaw is safer and more productive, self-feeding into the wood to cut through a log in seconds. A dull chain tends to bounce off the wood, take longer to cut, and can pose a danger if the operator pushes down on the saw trying to force the cut. Sharpened with a Timberline, a chain is much more predictable and cuts more efficiently. **EHT**



*The portable Timberline Chainsaw Sharpener gives the ability to sharpen your chain on the job, preventing work stoppages spent searching for a repair shop.*



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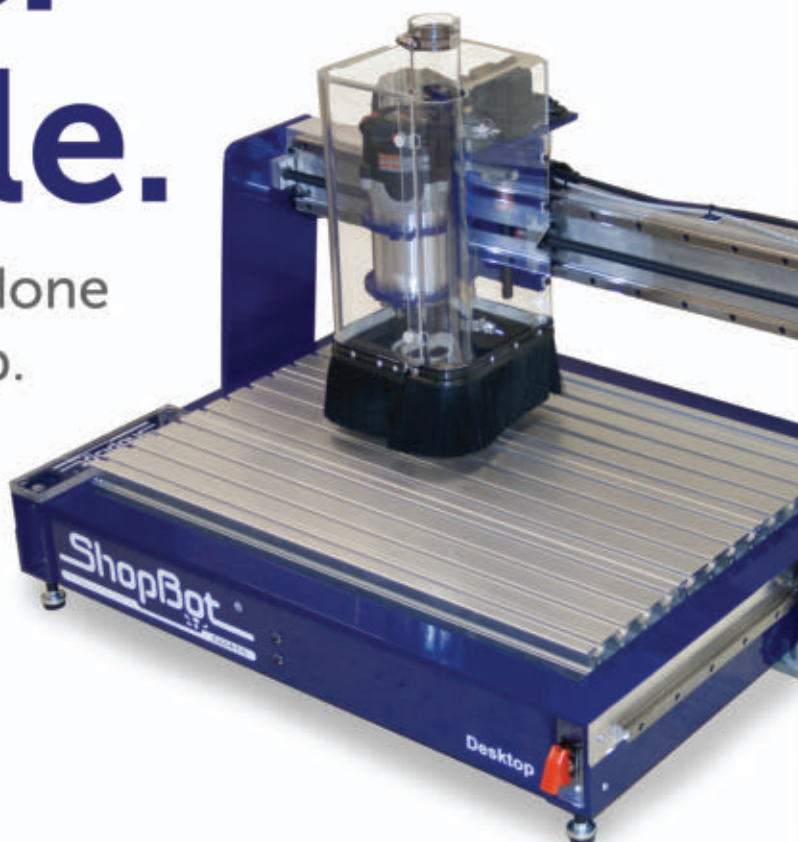
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# Older Windows: Repair or Replace?



Photo courtesy Simonton Windows

replaced—sometimes requiring an entirely new sash.

Another consideration is energy efficiency. Single-pane windows provide poor thermal insulation and result in cold spots in a room. New windows constructed with double-paned Low-E glass filled with harmless Argon or Krypton gas can reduce the home's power bill in the years to come. The gasses are denser than air and serve as an excellent thermal barrier, reducing the transfer of heat and cold through a window.

Poor performance can be another hassle. If the window sticks or fails to open easily, replacement parts may fix the problem, but not always. Condensation that regularly collects on the glass can impede the view, and the new gas-filled glass packages help to combat this annoying problem.

Finally, the routine maintenance of older windows is one of the biggest complaints of homeowners, particularly of those with wood-framed windows. Painted windows require regular TLC—scraping, painting, glazing—to seal out the weather and protect the wood from rot. New windows made with aluminum or vinyl can eliminate this hassle.

Routine window maintenance and the need to repair rot is one of the main reasons homeowners across America are opting for "non-wood" window replacements.

When it comes to window materials, vinyl is an excellent choice. Unlike wood, vinyl windows and doors will never rot or require endless repainting. And unlike aluminum, vinyl windows and doors will never pit or flake. Today's windows are made from the highest quality vinyl and require almost no

**N**ew windows offer some big advantages for homeowners. Replacement units offer smooth operation, tasteful decorative options, more energy efficiency and less routine maintenance. The problem is that new windows are expensive, and contractors charge nearly as much to install them as the units cost to purchase. Although a DIY'er can save money by doing the work, depending on the size and location of the window, even a single replacement can be a challenging job for a novice.

Repair and maintenance options for old windows may be more fea-

sible for homeowners on a tight budget. Old windows can usually be restored if you're willing to invest the time and energy (and can locate the right hardware).

However, sometimes repairing the windows may not be worth the effort, and replacement makes more sense. In some cases, hard-to-find parts that have been discontinued are only available from online suppliers, if at all. Replacing rotted wood can be a difficult job, and extensive damage may leave wood windows irreparable. Fogged double glass panes cannot be repaired and must be



Quickscrews International Corporation has been around a long time, over a quarter of a century, bringing innovation and support to the woodworker.

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### Pocket Hole Screws Square Drive



Quickscrews' specialty is the Pocket Hole Screw, having developed the modern Pan Head Face Screw years ago that the entire woodworking industry uses today.

As a woodworker, Quickscrews is the best because they are the biggest U.S. supplier of Pocket Hole Screws; supply the largest line of Type 17 screws that allow for easier driving; stock the largest selection of screws with nibs and have an extensive selection of drive bits.

### Assembly Quickscrews Type 17 Points With Nibs



The Quickscrews Assembly Screws are designed with Type 17 points and nibs, are available in all drives, and consistently outperform Drywall and Sheet Metal Screws.

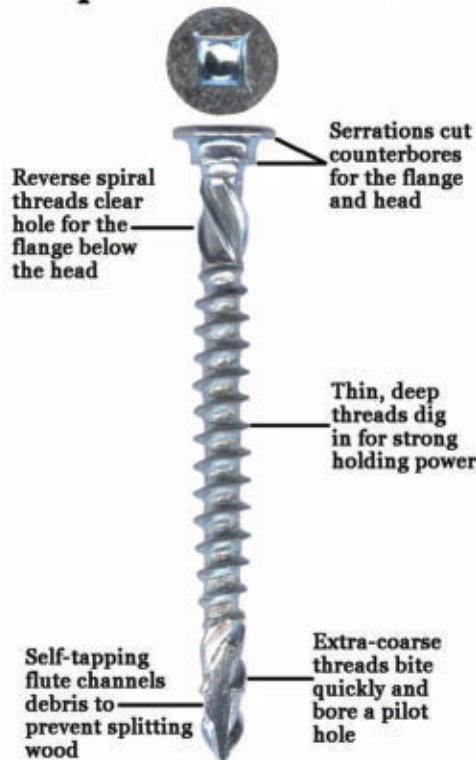
Their patented Quickcutter Thread cuts through hardwoods without the need for a pilot hole. We all know it can get tiring continuously driving in screws, but with this thread, less torque is required and so the user has a reduction in fatigue.

### Installation Screws Quickcutter Thread



This thread is very useful with Quickscrews' Installation Screws. The double Type 17 point eliminates the need to pre-drill a pilot hole even in the hardest woods, provides quicker starting and an overall faster, stress-free driving experience, which is what we all really want. For the do-it-yourselfer, this is the type of screw you must have.

### The Multipurpose Screw Spiral Point Funnel Head



Last, but certainly not least, Quickscrews has developed the first multipurpose screw on the market! The Spiral Point Funnel Head Screw is an all-purpose screw that can go into ANY type of wood. The Funnel Head was a Wood Magazine Innov8 Award Winner, and anyone that uses this screw has continued to use it as their main assembly screw. The right tool for the job is finally here.

Since its inception, Quickscrews has created and developed its products specifically with the woodworker in mind. Their continued commitment to pleasing its customers with innovative products makes them a revolutionary leader of this industry. And now, the do-it-yourselfer can access all of their amazing products online with just a simple mouse click.

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maintenance. In fact, an occasional washing will keep them looking like new for years. Plus, they offer increased comfort and lower utility bills, provide headache-free operation and add value to your home. New windows may be a big investment, but one that may pay off handsomely if you plan to live in the home for years to come. **EHT**

## LEARN MORE ONLINE

For a variety of window installation and replacement articles, including step-by-step photography and advice from professionals, visit the *Extreme How-To* website at [www.extremehowto.com](http://www.extremehowto.com).



Photo courtesy Simonton Windows

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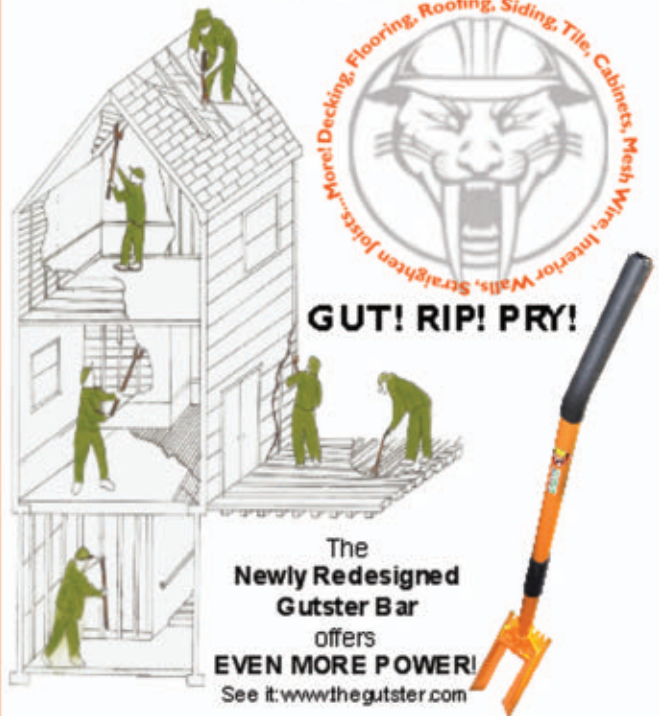
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## DIY WINDOW CHECK

The experts at Simonton Windows offer these do-it-yourself tips to gain an initial impression of how well your current windows and patio doors are functioning:

**Tip #1** - Examine the inside of your windows and patio doors for hot and cold “drafty” spots. This indicates air infiltration that can lead to wasted energy.

**Tip #2** - Check every window and door to make sure there is adequate weather-stripping and caulking around the units. This helps eliminate air infiltration and ensure a weather-tight seal.

**Tip #3** - Look for “burnt out” or faded areas on your furnishings and carpeting. This could indicate harmful, damaging UV rays are entering your home through your windows or doors. You may want to consider replacement with more energy-efficient units containing Low-E coatings on the glass.

**Tip #4** - If your windows no longer open or close easily—or if they need to be propped open—it could mean key components within the units are damaged or need adjustment. It could also mean the unit needs to be replaced entirely.

**Tip #5** - Check the “fit” of your current windows or patio doors by having someone stand outside the units at night. With a small flashlight, stand inside and “travel” around the edge of the units. If the person outside sees light coming through the edges, this indicates a poor installation and is resulting in energy loss.

If your evaluation turns up one or more problem areas, it may be time to consider replacing your windows or doors. Visit [www.simonton.com](http://www.simonton.com) for more details on vinyl windows with energy-efficient glass options.



Photo courtesy Simonton Windows

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# Single-Pane Window Glass Repair



By Clint C. Thomas, Esq. Photography by Zoe Thomas

*Replacement the glass of single-pane windows is an easy do-it-yourself job that requires only a few tools and materials.*

there will still be small pieces held in place by the old window glazing around the two sides and along the bottom edge. Sometimes these pieces can be lifted out just by simply pulling on them. However, oftentimes they are held fast in place by the old glazing. If this is the case, carefully use a stiff putty knife, flat-blade screwdriver or wood chisel to chip the old glazing out of the rabbet. Make sure that you wear safety glasses so you don't have a small piece of glass fly into your eye!

The best technique for removing old window glazing is to run your tool of choice between the bottom edge of the glazing and the top edge of the rabbet. Be sure to work parallel to the rabbet that you are cleaning off.

With the two sides of the window frame off and the bottom edge cleaned, you may now be wondering why you don't have to do the same thing along the top edge. Most traditional windows were made with a rabbet around the two sides and on the bottom, but not on the top. This is because a groove is actually cut into the top edge that the piece of glass will slide into, holding the top edge securely in place. It is important to remember that this groove exists when measuring for the new piece of glass because approximately 1/4 in. of the new pane will slide into this groove.

**W**indow glass breaks. It breaks for a variety of reasons. Broken windows can be the result of storm damage, a careless child with a ball, vandalism, or as is often the case with rental property, the result of rough living. Fortunately, many window glass repairs can be performed by the homeowner with a minimal amount of effort.

Aluminum or vinyl, double-pane windows are best repaired by removing whichever section of the window has the break and taking that entire part to a glass shop. Older, more traditional windows are a do-it-yourselfer's dream. They are made with a single piece of glass that is held in place with glazier's points and then sealed

with window glazing. The frames are usually made from wood and have a rabbet cut into them that creates a channel for the glass to rest in.

The first step in replacing a broken window is to remove all of the broken glass from the frame. Always wear safety glasses and heavy gloves when removing glass. Unlike automobile glass and commercial plate glass windows, residential window glass is not tempered. This means that when it breaks it leaves very sharp, jagged edges that can easily sever a limb. Therefore, extreme caution should be exercised when removing broken panes.

After the majority of the glass is removed from the window frame,

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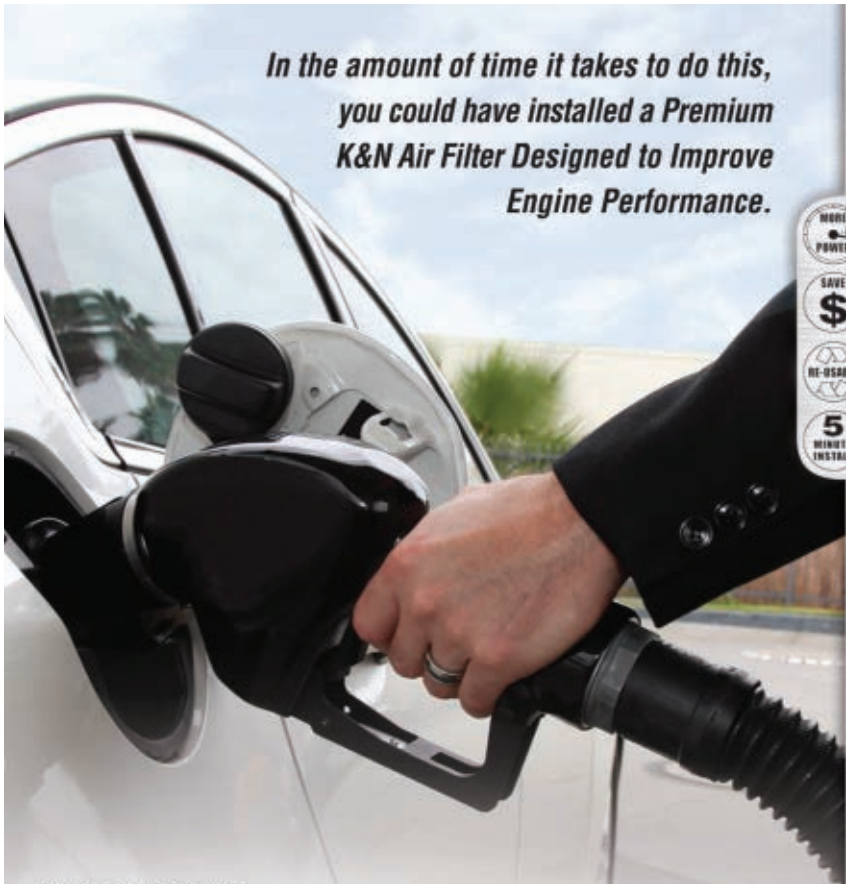


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## DO IT YOURSELF

The next step is the most critical and that is measuring for the new window pane. Unlike wood that can be easily trimmed or sanded, glass is not amenable to minor adjustments. Glass work is an

exact science. It either fits, or you have to cut another piece. The use of the word "cut" is actually a misnomer. Glass is not cut in the traditional sense that wood is cut. Glass is scored and then snapped



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*After removing the old glass, there will be a lot of old glazing around the pane that will need to be scraped or cut away.*



*A sharp putty knife or wood chisel can be used to remove the old glazing.*

into two pieces similar to how ceramic tiles are sometimes "cut".

Therefore, when measuring for the new window pane, take the measurements from the middle of each rabbet. If the measurements fall short then the glass won't fit in the window but if the measurement is too large then the same is true yet again. To be safe, try and leave 1/8-in. of space on all sides as a fudge factor.

The vertical measurement is much easier because the groove in the top of the frame is usually at least 1/4 in. deep. The vertical



*The bottom and sides of the window are built with a rabbet to house the glass pane.*



*The top edge of the pane includes a groove, which the top of the glass pane slips into.*

measurement can be obtained by measuring from the bottom rabbet up to the top of the frame and then by adding about 1/8 to 1/4 in., depending upon the depth of the groove.

After the new glass has been cut it can be easily put into place by sliding the top edge into the groove far enough to allow the bottom edge of the new piece of glass to sit flush with the rabbet in the bottom of the frame. Even though the top groove will hold the glass in place, it is a good idea to keep a hand on it, too, because if the bottom edge of the glass were to slip off the bottom rabbet then the entire piece of glass would drop out of the window and break.



*Insert the new pane of glass into the top groove and position it flush against the edges of the bottom and sides.*

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The new pane should be secured in place by using glazier's points. Push these into the window frame with your finger far enough to hold them in place and then use a flat-blade screwdriver and hammer to gently tap them into place. Remember to be very careful with the hammer so you don't inadvertently hit the new glass. I prefer to use a 1-in. wood chisel and push the glazier's points into place without a hammer, or you can invest in a glazier's tool that is designed for this specific job. Two glazier's points are recommended along each side and two more along the bottom edge to hold the glass in place.



*The new pane should be secured in place by using glazier's points.*

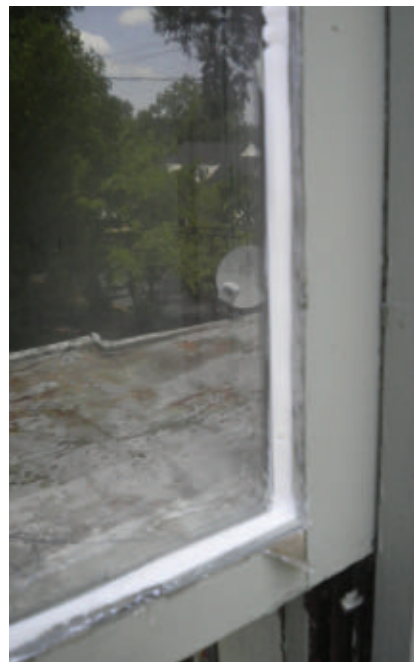
Window glazing provides the weather-proofing and also provides a secondary fastening method to keep the glass from rattling with the wind. Glazing can now be purchased in a tube like silicone and can also come in a can. The tube version is the most convenient to use, especially if the tube is manufactured with a slanted tip that serves as an applicator.

If you elect to use the type that is found in a can, the best way to apply it is to roll a small piece into a ball the size of a ping-pong ball

and then, starting in one corner, roll it along the rabbet toward the other corner while applying moderate downward pressure.

Regardless of which type is used, it will be necessary to then smooth out the glazing with a putty knife, but do not smooth it flat. Glazing should be set at a 45-degree angle to the window glass so water can run off it. If the glazing is applied flat (90 degrees) to the window glass, water can possibly run behind it and rot the window.

The final step is to paint the glazing after it has been allowed to dry in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, which is usually 24 or 48 hours. If traditional window glazing cannot be located, weather-resistant caulk or silicone can be used in a pinch as a temporary fix, but glazing is still the preferred application. **EHT**



*Window glazing provides the weather-proofing and also provides a secondary fastening method to keep the glass from rattling with the wind.*



*Push the glazier's points into the window frame and then use a flat-blade screwdriver and hammer to gently tap them into place.*

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# REPAIR

By Matt Weber

# A ROTTING WINDOW

## *Surgical Repair of a Rotten Sill, Trim and Siding.*

**W**ooden windows have a classic architectural appeal but require a lot of work to keep them in good condition. Maintenance chores such as repainting and re-sealing the windows can not only improve their appearance but also protect against weather exposure. Whether due to poor maintenance or shoddy installation, unprotected wood can eventually rot and require more remediation than a new coat of paint.

Such is the case with the rotting window sill shown in this article. Over time water had breached the sealant and paint around the sill and seeped into the wood, deteriorating some areas to the point where I could push a hole into the spongy material with my finger. The water had also leached up the brick molding on each side of the sill, and had run down into the wood siding below the window, rotting those materials as well. This article will detail the repair of a rotten wooden window, a job that demonstrates why routine maintenance is so very important.

### **MATERIAL ROUNDUP & DEMOLITION**

This may sound obvious, but make sure to acquire your replacement building materials before diving into your demolition. In this case we had trouble finding a siding supplier that carried a matching profile, which was an unexpected challenge that delayed our start.

# REPAIR A ROTTING WINDOW



With all your tools and materials on site, carefully proceed with removing the damaged materials. Because only the front of the window sill was rotted, with the area of contact between the sill and the pane still solidly intact, I decided to leave the good wood in place and surgically cut away the bad wood with an oscillating multi-tool. Doing this ensured that I did not compromise the weather seal at the pane-and-sill junction. However, it's important to make a very straight cut so your replacement piece installs correctly.

Next, I removed the rotted portions of the brick molding, again making straight 90-degree cuts for easy installation of the replacement pieces. Then I removed the siding, beginning at the top and pulling away each panel with a pry bar. The siding was so rotted that it came apart in soft chunks. Avoid the temptation to tear into



*Unchecked water intrusion lead to deterioration of the window sill, brick molding, siding and drip edge.*

*To preserve the weather seal, I only removed the rotted part of the window will, cutting it away with an oscillating multi-tool.*

the wall with a sledge hammer. In our case the siding was installed over rigid foam sheathing, which was still in decent shape so we could re-use it (no sense in destroying it).

## **FABRICATING THE SILL**

Here's an example one of those unexpected chores that seem to come up on every remodeling job: The need to fabricate a replica of the partial window sill. To create

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# REPAIR A ROTTING WINDOW

the replacement piece required some tricky cuts in the pressure-treated stock to mimic the profile. It had a funky shape with two different sized rabbets (grooves) and

bevels on each edge. The front bevel of the window sill served as a drip edge, and the rear cut had to interface with the remaining sill that was still attached to the

window — which was pitched to shed water.

This type of work generally requires a table saw, utilizing the saw's rip fence in conjunction with the blade's ability to adjust depth and cutting angle. Without this crucial tool, I would never have been able to fab up the replacement sill. So, if you're a DIY'er who has been weighing the benefits of investing in one of these highly versatile saws, a task like this is the exact kind of situation where the right equipment can save the day.

The old removed sill was in such poor condition that I had



*I then removed the damaged trim and pried away the rotten siding.*

*I cut the old sill in half to get to the heart of its profile.*



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to cut it in half in an area that was still fairly intact just to get a good look at its original shape. I then used a cross-section of the old sill as a template to trace its profile onto the end of a 2x4. These traced lines provided my guidelines to make the various rip cuts when recreating the shape. I then used my multi-tool to notch out the corners to fit around the window casing.

Note: Although I used pressure-treated lumber to create the replacement sill, another option might be to laminate 1x4 flat PVC stock into a 2x4 block and cut the profile from the block. Cellular PVC, such as the material available from Fypon ([www.fypon.com](http://www.fypon.com)), is a more rot-resistant material but was not in stock in our area at the time.

Before reinstalling the new sill, I wrapped the old sill with self-adhesive window flashing. I covered the cut area of the old sill with flashing and folded it smoothly over the lower framing so that it lapped over the sheathing to divert water.

I then tested the new sill for a good fit, and used shims as necessary to secure it flush and level with the old piece. Once satisfied with its placement, I countersunk several 3-in. decking screws through the sill into the old framing to secure its position.

In addition to screws I anchored and sealed the sill with a liberal application of Siliconized Adhesive Sealant, filling all seams and screw holes. Do not skimp on the quality of adhesive sealant, or you may find yourself repeating this job in the future. The product we used boasted a 52-year warranty. Additionally, make sure your product is labeled as "paintable," because conventional silicone will not bond with paint. Do your best to tool the fresh sealant smooth,



*I used the old sill as a template to fabricate a replacement piece on the table saw.*

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# REPAIR A ROTTING WINDOW

because the siliconized material doesn't sand easily. The sealant required a couple of applications to accommodate a small degree of shrinkage when dry.

## TRIM & SIDING

I had to rebuild some of the lower window casing from 1x4, installing with adhesive and finish nails. When it came time to replace the brick molding, I used urethane molding from Fypon—a material that will never succumb to the same rot and moisture problems as wood. These pieces had a matching profile, which made them easy to butt to the old molding, fastening with polyurethane construction adhesive and finish nails (and shimming as necessary).

Next I installed the wood siding. This was a straightforward



*The multi-tool proved handy when notching the sill to fit around the window casing.*



*I wrapped the window framing with self-adhesive flashing for proper water protection.*

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*I fastened the sill with a combination of shims, decking screws and silicized adhesive sealant.*

*I replaced the brick molding with rot-resistant urethane molding from Fypon.*



procedure in which I followed the original nailing pattern with aluminum finish nails driven through the upper flange of each siding piece. Siding installation always begins at the bottom, with each successive piece overlapping the one beneath it to divert water. I didn't have room to fit a full siding panel right beneath the window, so I ripped the final piece to size on the table saw and screwed it into place.

The drip edge at the bottom of the siding had also rotted away. It was made from 1x4 and used to divert water away from the home's foundation. Again, I had to cut the rotted piece in half to get to the meat of the profile and transferred its shape onto some fresh 1x4 stock, which I ripped on the table saw. The multi-tool also came in handy again when I had to notch

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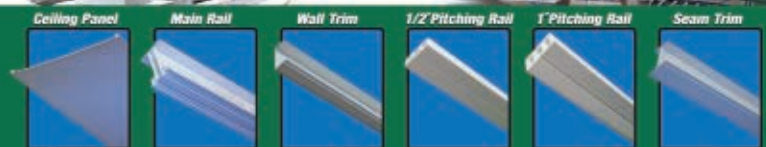
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# REPAIR A ROTTING WINDOW

the ends of the drip edge to fit over the fascia on the house. I fastened the drip edge with finish nails into solid wall framing and toe-nailed into the siding.

## SEALING & PRIMING

Every window and door installation should be sealed with a high-quality, flexible exterior-grade sealant. I recommend lining all

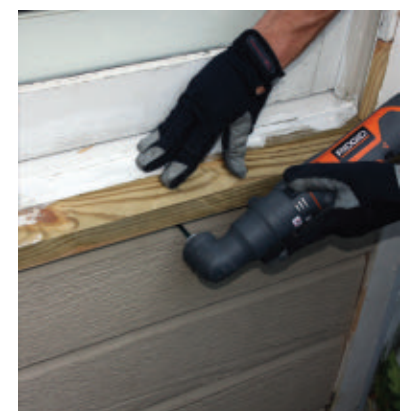


*Siding installation begins at the bottom.*

*Each siding panel overlaps the one beneath it to divert water. I fastened the panels using the original nailing pattern.*



*I had to rip the final siding panel to fit beneath the window.*



*A right-angle impact driver made it easy to screw the final panel beneath the window sill.*

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## REPAIR A ROTTING WINDOW

seams with painter's tape when sealing to localize the mess. Tool the beads of sealant smooth with a wet rag or a flexible caulk shaper. Fill all fastener holes with an exterior-grade wood filler. Make sure your sealant and wood filler are paintable products. Follow suit by sealing the seams of the siding and drip edge in the same manner.

Once the entire installation is sealed and filled, give all the new materials a fresh coat of exterior-grade primer (or two). The final paint job to follow will not only give the window and wall a fresh coat of color, but will provide a new layer of protection from the water that caused the rot in the first place. **EHT**



*I suggest lining the seams with painter's tape when applying the window sealant. Use exterior-grade wood filler to fill all fastener holes.*



*Use a scraper to completely remove all old caulking so your new sealant will have a firm bond with the substrate. Seal the edges of the siding against air and water penetration.*



*The lower drip edge was also rotted and required me to fabricate a new profile.*



A table saw with a rip fence is the perfect tool for cutting the bevels of the drip edge. A multi-tool made quick work of the notches at the rear of the drip edge.



Fasten the drip edge with finish nails and seal all joints.



Here's the repair after priming, ready for a new coat of finish paint.

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# SHAKER MOLDING THAT SHINES

*Installing Shaker-style Crown Molding with Rope Lighting*

**By Rob Robillard**

Ever since I installed rope lighting behind crown molding during a 2004 remodeling project, I've wanted an opportunity to do it again. Now seven years later, I finally got my chance.

The project pictured is my screen porch. I spend countless hours on this porch, working, relaxing and entertaining. I love this room and recently decided to install the crown molding with rope-style accent lighting.

## **WHAT IS ROPE LIGHTING?**

Rope lighting is a plastic flexible tube that is made up of tiny bulbs, either incandescent or

LEDs. Rope lights are a super easy way to introduce accent lighting and color into your lighting design. They work so well because of their versatility. A common use for rope lights is as a cove or accent light. Rope lighting placed behind crown molding can create a warm accent glow and makes a great DIY project.

Rope lighting can be bought in predetermined lengths. When I'm working at a client's house and hardwiring the rope lighting, I prefer to cut the tube between lights at the exact length needed and splice together my connections.



# SHAKER MOLDING THAT SHINES



*Shown is the screen porch before installation.*

## COMBINING WITH CROWN MOLDING

Installing crown molding in any room greatly enhances a home's décor. Using rope lighting in combination with crown molding is a great way to provide both an inviting mood light and aesthetic beauty. The warm glow becomes a focal point and really draws you in!

Combining crown with rope lighting is easy, as long as you follow a few simple principles, such as matching the existing décor. I already knew that rope lighting would create spectacular accents. The problem I had was choosing the molding.

The screen porch has a simple country design look, complete



*Rope lighting can be purchased at any hardware or electrical supply store. Kits are available to create custom lengths.*



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# SHAKER MOLDING THAT SHINES

with tongue-and-groove bead-board, a mahogany wood floor and wide, flat 1x6 window casing. I initially thought crown molding would be too fancy for this room.

I almost gave up on the notion when I realized that I could make

a simple Shaker-style molding out of 1x4 flat boards.

The Shakers, a religious group, approached work as an act of worship and aspired to a combination of simple yet beautiful design and fine craftsmanship. To this day,

Shaker furnishings are recognized for their elegant simplicity and exquisite workmanship. Why not borrow from their lead?

Once I decided to make my own Shaker-style crown molding, I measured the room and went to the store to buy the rope lighting. I took the easy road and bought rope lighting at a factory-determined length with a wall plug. I think I spent \$40.00 on the lights. An electrical supply store can provide you with the tools and materials needed for custom size rope lighting.



*The Shaker-style molding was made from 1x4.*

## MAKING THE SHAKER-STYLE MOLDING

I started by buying 1x4 pine boards, longer than the 14-ft. span of the three screen porch walls. Using my table saw, I ripped

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all four edges of these 1x4's to achieve the desirable spring angle. First I ripped the board to width and then ripped the two opposing edges at 35 degrees, which gave me the wall angle and top edge of the crown molding. The two opposite side rips were made at 45 degrees for a decorative beveled edge.

Once all of the boards were ripped, I used a small block plane to remove the saw marks, lightly sanded the ripped edges and then primed all the bare wood.

Tip—When ripping long boards like this, make sure you support them with extension rollers to keep the work piece level and in line to the saw blade.

### INSTALLING THE MOLDING

Measuring wall-to-wall, I cut my new crown molding to size. I only



*The boards were first ripped to width on a table saw and then cut with a 35-deg. spring angle.*



*Cutting the opposite edges at 45 degrees provides the decorative beveled edge.*

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# SHAKER MOLDING THAT SHINES

needed to miter two corners of the screen porch because the other ends “dead-ended”, or “butted”, into the house wall. The molding only runs along the outside walls and over the screen panels.

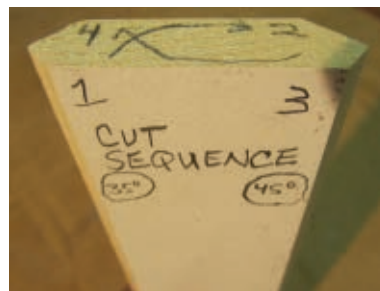
**Tip**—When working alone and measuring long distances, insert a nail close to the opposite wall and hook your tape onto it.

To double-check the corner miters, I first cut scrap pieces of molding with 45-deg. angles and tested it prior to cutting and installing my longer boards. I use this test piece to check the accuracy of the miter and make any necessary adjustments. (Not all wall corners are a perfect 90 degrees.) If the heel of the miter is open, I re-cut the scrap molding to 44, 43 or 42 degrees, finding the best fit to close the gap.

The same method applies if the scrap molding miter point is open



*This photo shows the orientation of the cuts.*



*This shows the cut sequence.*



*A scrap block was used to guide the layout.*

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# SHAKER MOLDING THAT SHINES

but the heel touches. In this situation, I cut my scrap piece at 46, 47 or 48 degrees to close the gap.

Once I have the scrap pieces fitting tight, I cut my molding to

those angles. I use the “upside down and backwards method” to cut my crown molding on a miter saw. The next molding to be installed has two miters. The

left-hand miter receives the same angle as the scrap molding. I then dry-fit the opposite corner with scrap pieces and cut that miter as well.

I used Gorilla wood glue to secure the miters and nailed off the molding every 12 inches along the bottom edge.

It’s a good practice to cut the molding at the exact length or 1/16-in. longer. I like to cut the molding slightly longer so I can

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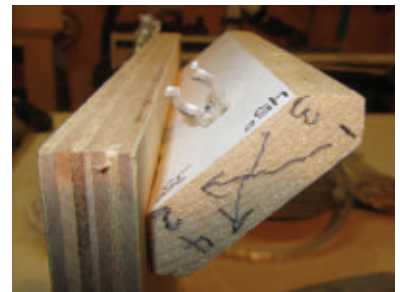
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Make sure the molding is large enough to conceal the clips that hold the rope lighting.



The lighting should remain hidden in the channel behind the molding to provide soft, ambient lighting.



When ripping long boards, support them with extension rollers to keep the work piece level and in line to the saw blade.



*When working alone and measuring long distances, insert a nail close to the opposite wall and hook your tape onto it.*



*A scrap piece of molding helped to determine the exact corner angles for out-of-square walls.*

bow out the molding in the middle. I like to get the ends in place and then snap the molding in for a super tight fit.

I set the molding ends in place and then release tension on the bow and allow the board to tension inward. If done right, slight hand pressure will hold the crown to the wall and the finish nails will fasten it in place. Doing this keeps the miters pressed tightly together and allows for the glue to do its job.

## OPEN MOLDING OR SUPPORT BLOCKS?

On this project I determined that the molding only needed to be 2 inches wide to accomplish what I

needed and to be in proportion with my screen panel trim. Using such a small molding meant that I could fasten it along the bottom edge and I did not need inside support or nailing blocks.



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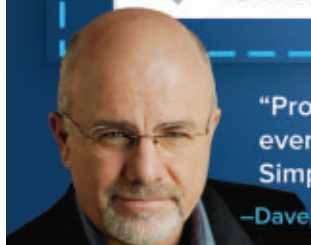
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—Dave Ramsey, financial expert & New York Times bestselling author

# SHAKER MOLDING THAT SHINES

On previous projects I have used much larger moldings, which necessitated that I provide support behind the molding. For those projects, I made custom mounting

blocks with holes drilled in them to allow the rope lighting to pass through. Without the holes, the rope lighting would have had to bend over the

mounting blocks and then have been visible from below.

## FASTENING THE CROWN

Since the molding is open on the top, I installed 8d finish nails into the molding along the

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The Automatic Dustpan mounts into the kickboard of the cabinet and is connected to the **Sweep-Away** with flex hose. The Automatic Dustpan mounts flush to the kickboard, never in the way and is virtually unnoticeable.



The molding was cut on a miter saw using the "upside-down and backward" method.



Before installation, all the saw marks were planed off the molding and primer was applied to the exposed wood.

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# SHAKER MOLDING THAT SHINES



*It helps to cut the molding slightly longer than the wall so the pieces snap into place and keep pressure on the miter joints.*



*The molding was fastened with finish nails along its bottom edge.*

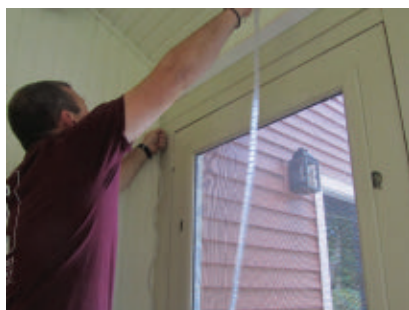
bottom edge and into the wall.

A friend of mine once said, "If it's worth doing, it's worth gluing." A little glue along this bottom edge helps keep it all together.

I chose to use my Paslode cordless finish nailer, but hand-nailing works too. If you hand-nail, you will need to predrill prior to driving the 8-penny nails. The finish nailer does not have a cumbersome cord and it allows me to set the exact depth of my nails.

After all three crown molding boards were installed, I made sure all of the nails were set and filled with wood filler.

Tip—I find it requires less sanding effort to fill nail holes flush and to do a light second coat only if necessary. This two-coat method is still faster than "over applying"



*A small hole provided access for the rope lighting to be routed behind the molding.*

the wood filler and having to sand it smooth.

After the second coat, I lightly sand the wood filler and "spot" prime those areas. I caulked all of the seams at this time as well. After applying a final coat of trim paint, the installation looked like it had always been there.

I then cut a hole into the "house" side of one of the moldings. This hole was used to pass the rope lighting down to the electrical outlet.

To hide the rope light cord going to the outlet, I built a chase out of poplar wood. The chase hides the rope lighting and allows for the rope lighting to be passed down to the outlet undetected.

## INSTALL THE ROPE LIGHTING

I ran the rope lighting through the chase, into the hole and around the room behind the molding. The lighting came with plastic clips and screws. These clips worked great for keeping the rope hidden down behind the crown molding. Rope lighting similar to this can be purchased at any hardware or electrical supply store. Kits are available to create your own custom lengths.



This whole project, including buying the rope lighting and wood, took only 6 hours but will give me years of enjoyment and bragging rights! **EHT**

Editor's Note: Robert Robillard is a remodeling contractor based out of Concord, MA. Visit his site at [www.AConcordCarpenter.com](http://www.AConcordCarpenter.com)



A small, narrow channel conceals the rope lighting as it runs from the outlet to the crown molding.



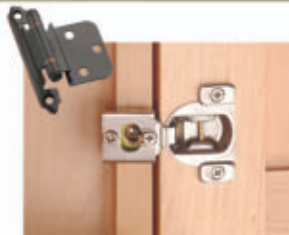
Shown is the finished project.

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# DESK SPACE

## *Making the Most of a Low Ceiling Area for a Home Office*

**By Larry Walton**

**W**hen we were kids we could make use of small spaces throughout the house for forts and games of hide and seek. Into the teen years some of these same areas came in handy to stash... Well, let's just say we made use of storage opportunities that may have been overlooked by our less imaginative family members.

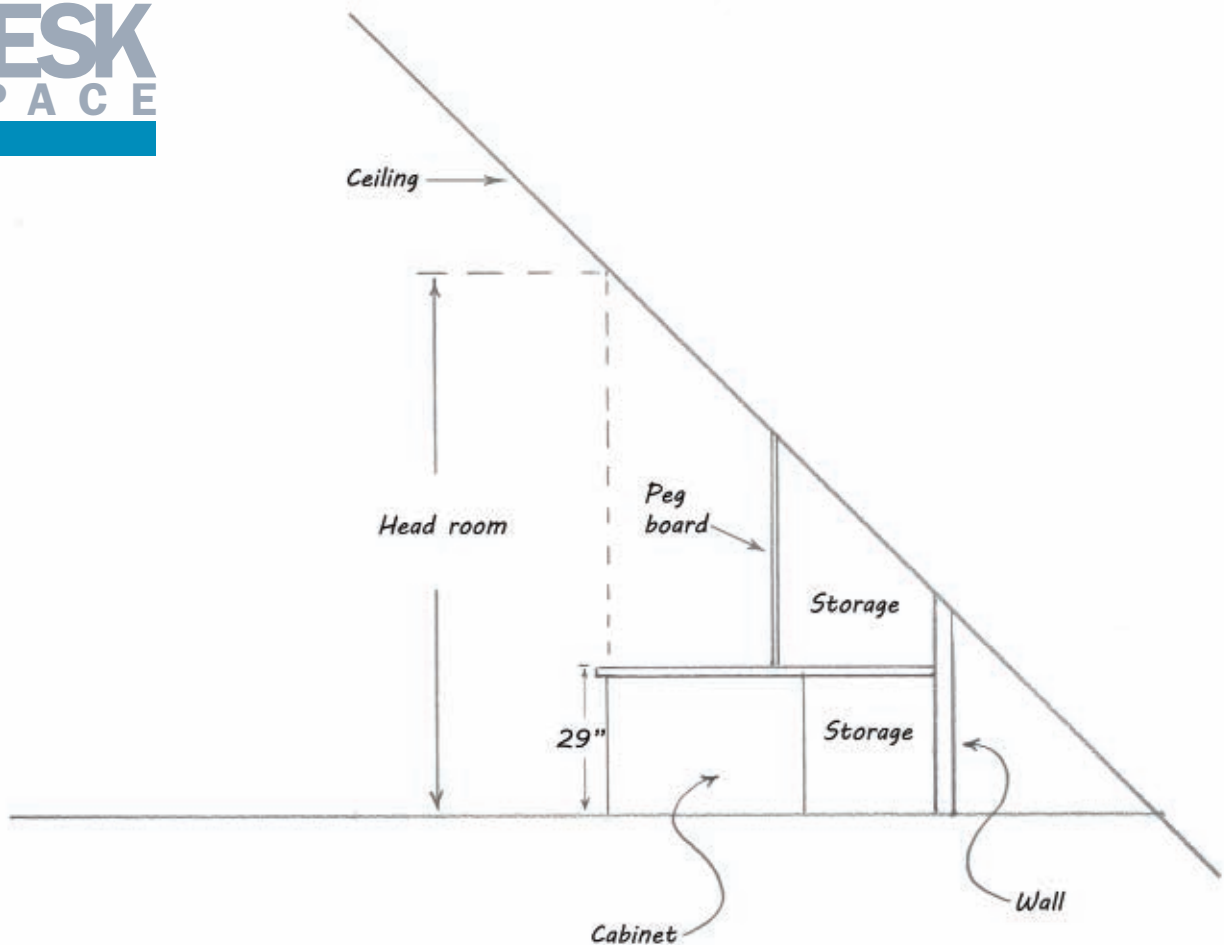
Making use of odd spaces is a great way to maximize the square footage of your house. We've found that desks can fit into any number of these areas. Many families have wisely placed the computer desks for "kid" use in the public areas of the house for monitoring by mom and dad and by other enforcers who may wish to inform on a sibling. Often these desk areas can be found under staircases or in wide hallways. I've owned a couple of houses with 12/12 pitch roofs that have had space where you eventually run out of head room as you approach the sloped ceiling created by the rake of the roof framing—an area that makes a great place for a desk that requires little headroom.

You can test a space in your house for desk use by putting a folding table in the spot for a while to get a feel for what it would be like to have a desk there. This can also help you position the front edge of the desk.

For our current home office setup we had a 20-ft. area that was bordered with a 3-ft. vertical wall where. At 6 ft. 3 in., my son and staff member, Tim, could only get within 5 ft. of the short wall before hitting his head. This is how we determined where to put the front edge of our mega desk with three work stations.







We had a couple of options with the depth of the desk. We could have walled off the area behind the desk until the desk surface was about 3 ft. deep. To make use of the 2 ft. of space between the two walls would require access behind the desk. We decided the simplest solution was to make the desk 5 ft. deep and make panels at about 3 ft. deep. For now we are hanging pegboard panels painted black with plenty of storage for office supplies. (We'll use these pegboards as recessed panels in frames for sliding bypass doors when we do an upgrade planned for later.)

We build lots of desks in small alcoves by building a simple frame to support the desk top. When the desk area is large enough we can put a cabinet base beneath it. Because of the size of this desk, we would need some serious support supplied

primarily by oversize cabinet base units along with countertop strong-backs made of lumber for the longest spans. Because of the extreme depth of the desk, we built our custom base cabinets more than 3 ft. deep, which means we have file drawers that will extend out of the cabinet 2-1/2 ft. That's a lot of file space!

We built the base cabinets 28 inches high, and they determined the elevation for all of the remaining ledgers and strong-back structure to support the field of countertop materials. One tricky component was getting the cabinet fronts all lined up and level with each other, which we did with the help of a string line.

We finished our countertop with plastic laminate. We knew that the sheer size would present a serious challenge to hiding the seams between laminate sheets (not an issue with a conventional desk size), so we put the seams

where we plan to install partitions between the work stations during our next upgrade.

We've been using this desk for months now, and it's working out great. Here's how we built it.



We built custom cabinets as the base for our new office space to replace the temporary desks we were using.

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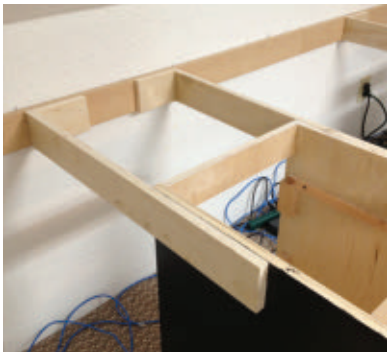
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Once we determined the side-to-side layout for the work stations, we positioned and leveled the cabinets.



We built a network of ledger boards and counter support frames connecting the base cabinets to each other and to the wall.



We nailed blocks to the sides of the cabinets that acted as cleats to attach face frames and countertop supports.



To handle the 5-ft. depth of the counter and the large spans in the outside work stations, we added a second set of cross braces.



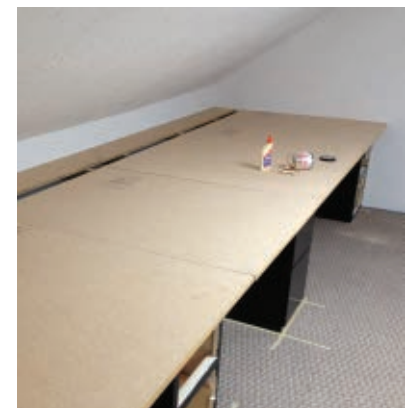
We added framing between the longer spans and glued and nailed an additional layer of plywood behind the face frame piece to add strength.



Biscuits and glue played an important role in joining the large particle board sheets we used for countertop substrates.



We lined up the joints with support framing to give strength to the desk unit. It's a good idea to cut the center section slightly undersized so you have room to tip it in with the biscuits in place.



We didn't bother finding particle board wider than four feet in width since the back seam would be hidden inside the planned storage area at the back of the desk.



We used 1x2 poplar as the self-edge. This board strengthens the front edge of the counter as well. Be sure to glue the self-edge before installing.



We used a combination square to mark the location of the front of the face frame. This helps place the nails when attaching the countertop so you can prevent shiners (nail blow-outs) that can make a mess of the face frame.



We started our laminate install with the center piece and dry-fit the end pieces leaving room at the walls to place them without interference from the wall surface.

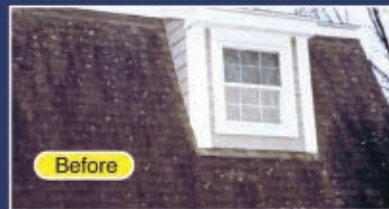


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We have two routers set up for laminate installs. The smaller one has a bearing-less flush cut bit to cut off excess laminate, keeping the bit moving helps minimize heat that can burn the wood self-edge.



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Our second router is set up with a 45-deg. chamfer bit. You can adjust the depth of the bit for the style of self-edge you're going for.



We use a file to match the chamfer on the ends near the walls where a router cannot reach.

A hole saw can be used to cut both the laminate and counter substrate at once to make access for computer wires. We used a router to ease the edge of the hole to avoid damaging cable insulation.

Our finished work area with the self-edge painted black makes for good contrast with the light gray laminate counters. **EHT**



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# Tips for Outdoor Wood Care



By Tom Matthews

**W**ood remains America's most popular building material for outdoor structures because of its natural good looks, ready availability, durability and affordability. It's versatile, easy to work with, and homeowners know what to expect from its performance. However, to take full advantage of those many qualities requires proper protection and maintenance. Whether it's pressure-treated SPF, cedar, cypress, redwood or even a high-end exotic hardwood, the right care will protect exterior wood from the elements and keep it in good shape for years.

## TIPS FOR NEW WOOD

Allow new pressure-treated wood to dry before staining or sealing. The pressure treatment of lumber with waterborne preservatives leaves moisture in the wood. This is why fresh PT lumber often arrives wet from the supplier or is still damp at the lumber yard, and the moisture can impede the penetration of stains and paints. For best performance of paint and stain coatings, allow the treated wood to dry prior to application. Typically, treated wood will dry in 2 to 4 weeks after installation. Estimating exactly how long treated wood will take to dry is difficult,

and a lot depends on how much time has elapsed since the treatment, the lumber's exposure to the sun, ambient weather, etc. Consider these factors, and always follow the instructions provided by the stain manufacturer.

Wood with natural preservatives, such as Western Red Cedar, cypress and redwood, do not require as much drying time because the wood was never pressure-treated with a preservative.

Contrary to popular belief, new wood still needs to be cleaned to remove any "mill scale", which is a compression of the grain during the milling process that can cause the stain to float or run off without absorption. Cleaning the surface with an oxygenated bleach (sodium percarbonate) removes the mill scale as well as any contaminants, such as dirt or mildew, that the lumber picked up during construction.

## TIPS FOR WEATHERED WOOD

When wood is exposed to the sunlight the ultraviolet rays can damage the wood fibers over time,



*A recent fence-staining project in Extreme How-To's neck of the woods relied on Defy Wood Cleaner to prepare the boards for a staining.*



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causing the surface to turn gray. The most direct way to renew the appearance is to sand or pressure-wash the surface. However, sanding can be very difficult and time-consuming for large areas, and pressure-washing must be approached with caution. The problem with pressure-washing is that too much pressure can damage the wood

surface, removing the gray but causing the surface to fuzz or splinter. This can not only affect the wood's appearance, but can pose a "touch" hazard for areas such as deck surfaces where people may walk bare-foot. When using a power-washer, limit your pressure to no more than 1,000 or 1,200 PSI and carefully work in the direction of the grain—never against it.



*The cleaning agent was applied with a sprayer to remove mold and mildew and open the wood-grain to better absorb the stain.*



*Careful pressure-washing rinsed away the cleaning agent and renewed the look of the wood.*



*Heavily damaged boards can be completely replaced with new ones, as shown in this photo.*

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wood surface, must be completely removed before applying a penetrating stain. The more common penetrating variety is formulated to seep into the grain and leaves the wood's natural texture exposed. However, if you plan to stick with the same color and type of stain, and your deck is in decent condition, then you can probably get by with a thorough cleaning and a fresh maintenance coat. As always, refer to the manufacturer's recommendations for best practices.

If there is a buildup of old stains on the deck, then you may need to remove it with something stronger than an oxygen bleach cleaner. Stain strippers are more caustic, but they remove most weathered stains in a single application. Small, stubborn spots of stain can then be removed with a hand sander once the deck has dried.

### TIPS FOR PREPPING

An often overlooked step for deck-staining projects is the application of a wood brightener. Brighteners are chemical agents that open the woodgrain to improve penetration of the stain and help restore the appearance of weathered wood to a like-new



*This project utilized Defy Extreme Wood Stain, which was sprayed on with a heavy-duty 1-HP Campbell Hausfeld airless sprayer.*



*Always thoroughly mix the stain to evenly blend the solids and ensure a consistent color tone throughout the project.*



*Keep the nozzle of the sprayer roughly 12" from the surface being stained.*

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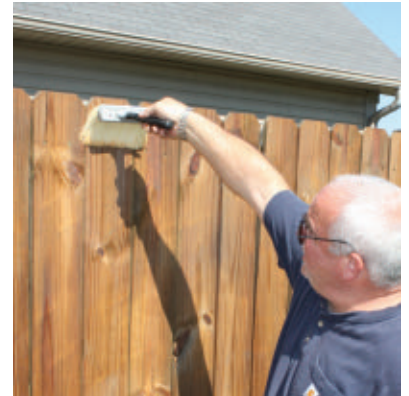
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condition. Wood brighteners are also easy to use. The product can simply be sprayed onto the wood surface, given a few minutes to work its "magic" and then rinsed off, requiring very little labor.

After using any chemical treatment to clean and prepare the deck, use plenty of water to completely remove all traces of the products—and then allow the wood to dry prior to stain or sealer application.

### TIPS FOR APPLICATION

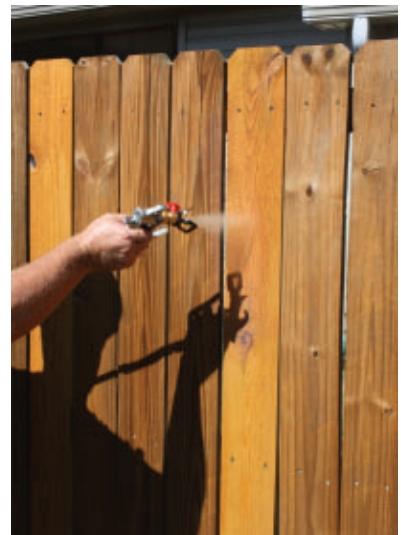
For both horizontal and vertical structures, brushing is the best method for stain/sealer application because the bristles push the product evenly into the woodgrain to increase absorption. Using a sprayer or roller can apply the



*Always back-brush the stain for the best penetration.*



*A two-man spraying-and-brushing crew can speed up completion.*



*Apply additional coats to darken the stain on new boards in order to help them blend into the freshly stained fence.*

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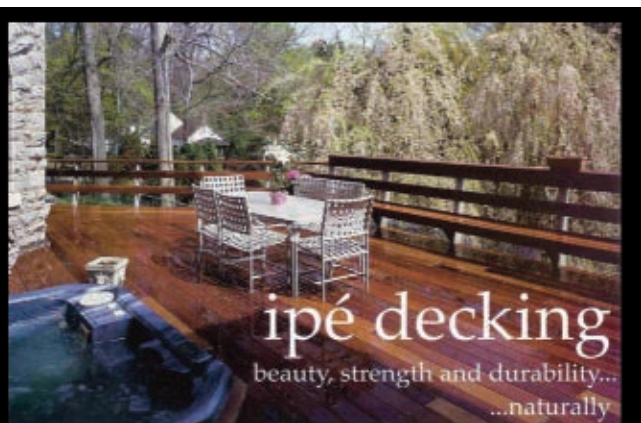


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## PROJECT NEXT

stain more quickly, but both of these methods leave much of the stain on the surface without adequate penetration into the pores. This superficial product can wear away unevenly. So, if applying the stain with a sprayer, roller or staining pad, most pros still recommend back-brushing it into the woodgrain for the most consistent appearance and best protection. **EHT**

*The Jim Grant Company of San Diego, California, recently rescued a DIY deck project gone awry. The homeowner failed to properly clean the surface prior to applying a coating, and halfway through the application he realized it was a solid stain not the transparent finish he wanted. Before the situation became worse, the pros were consulted.*



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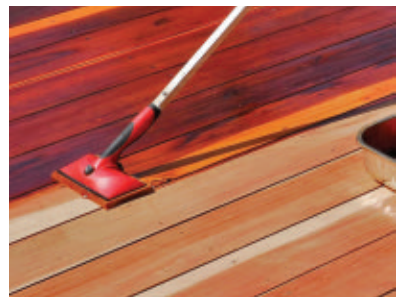
Always inspect the structure's support framing for signs of decay.



Limit the pressure on your power washer to no more than 1,000 or 1,200 PSI and carefully work in the same direction as the grain—never against.



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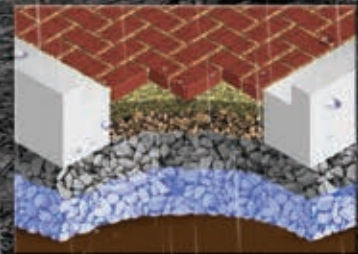
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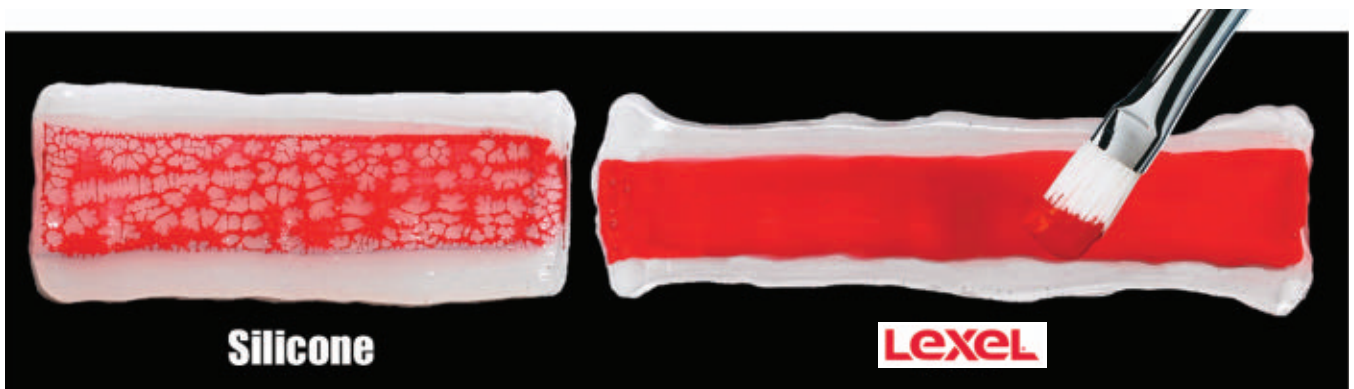
**From** mosaics to kayaks, and from sealing a shower to coating a porous surface – Lexel is an all-purpose product that will amaze you. Lexel is versatile, durable, and extremely adhesive. Is it a caulk? Is it an adhesive? Let's find out.

So, what projects can you use Lexel on? Just about anything! Seriously! We've heard of Lexel being used to seal a porous clay pot to make it watertight. Another customer raved about Lexel sticking to an aluminum trailer, flexing within the joints, and preventing rust from the elements. Lexel is a great adhesive for craft products, and will adhere multiple surfaces together. Be mindful of cure time on projects. Lexel can take time

handle up to 400% more joint movement than silicone and won't tear out of joints like silicone. It can be scrubbed with cleansers and scouring pads, is 19 times clearer than silicone and won't yellow.

Lexel sticks to just about anything and can be applied to wet or dry surfaces, indoors and outdoors. It is hands-down an awesome product that everyone should have in their toolbox.

Lexel is made in Brighton, Colorado by Sashco, Inc. Sashco, Inc. is a family-owned company that has been in business over 77 years. Sashco prides itself on manufacturing products that work. This means Sashco tests its products for years, and ensures its products



to cure because of its tough yet flexible properties – yet once it cures, it is unsurpassable in adhesion.

Lexel can be applied in standing water, and holds up for many, many years. Lexel can be used in showers and bathrooms – withstanding scrubbing, resisting mildew buildup, and enduring standing water. Lexel will outlast any caulking product. Best of all, Lexel won't peel off or string away over time, like silicone products.

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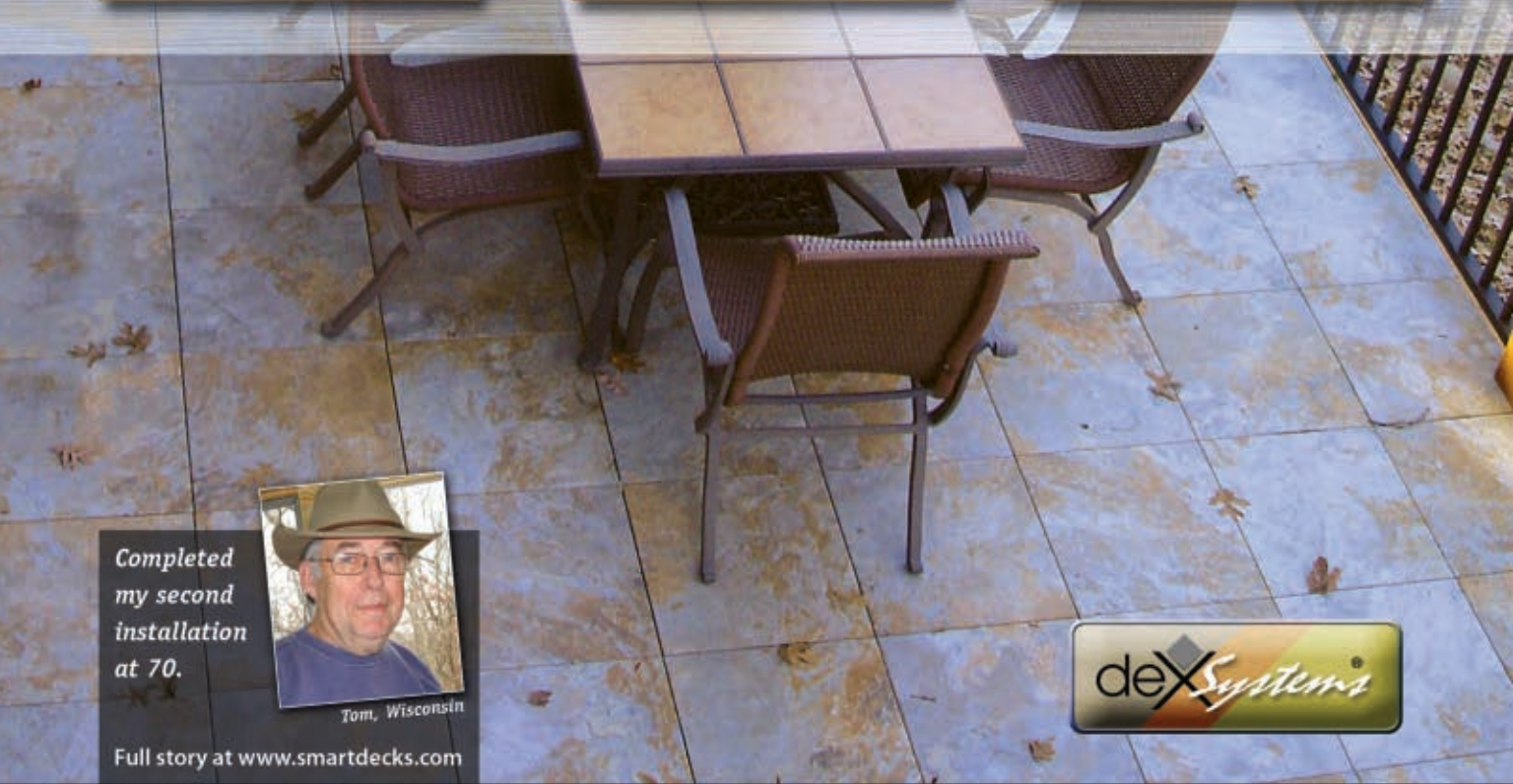
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