

Home *Guide*



Making your house safe, sound, and beautiful amid the pandemic

WRITTEN BY HEIDI BETHEL

Since March, most people in the Reno-Tahoe area have significantly increased the time spent in their homes. Nevada and California shelter-in-place orders resulted in folks staring at their walls, floors, ceilings, and yards more than at any other time in recent history. And, as you'd expect, the "honey-do" lists began to grow.

While some do-it-yourselfers got right to work, others waited, wondering what the renovation and real estate market have in store. While the outlook for COVID-19 still is unclear, an upside to the stay-at-home order was that it gave us time to spruce up the sanctuaries we call home.

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Goodbye dirt and grime ... and germs

With bleach and other household cleaners flying off the shelves, Don Hanley, owner of Just in Time Cleaning in Reno, urges residents to keep it simple.

"You can use any type of disinfectant cleaner that kills viruses and lightly wipe surfaces in the home," he explains. "Pretty much any soap will break down the outer cell of the COVID-19 virus.

"Anyone who is relocating also should really consider having a professional come in and clean," Hanley adds. "You want to start with your own germs in the place, instead of those from somebody else."

Hanley and his team clean and disinfect all appliances, cabinets, doorknobs, and other touch points to ensure living spaces are free of germs and ready for new dwellers.



Bring on the projects

Whether it's a quick fix or massive renovation, consulting with the professionals is a must to avoid blemished work. Sure, hanging a picture or patching a hole is simple enough, but Chad Shearer, owner of Fix-it Chad, which services Reno, Sparks, and Incline Village residents, has seen his fair share of work gone wrong.

"If someone has a bigger project that they don't feel comfortable with or don't know how to do it, or they are working from home and don't have the time, those are great reasons to outsource to a handyman, landscaper, or home improvement specialist," Shearer explains.

He also says that for those who may have already gone down the rabbit hole, it's best to contact a professional for guidance.

Looking to try your hand at handymaning? Shearer suggests arriving at the home improvement store early in the morning to limit exposure to others. He also urges people to have a plan and do their research before getting started.

Ready to renovate

Those hoping to start bigger makeovers, such as a kitchen remodel or backyard facelift, may find now is a great time to get the planning process started.

"Renovations can take anywhere from a month to six months, even a year, depending on how in-depth they will be," says Tammi Czyz, co-owner of Czyz's Appliance in Reno. "It can be stressful and takes a lot of planning to do renovations. Some contractors may have time now, due to customers who may have stopped or slowed down their projects."

Czyz is seeing more barbecues and outdoor islands being constructed, as well as many more refrigerators ordered.



"There may be a shortage of refrigerators because of COVID-19, so if you're thinking about ordering something, it's better to do it now," she adds.

Family owned and operated for 31 years, Czyz's Appliance is a local company offering authorized service and installations of all the brands it sells, including refrigerators, appliances, and outdoor equipment.

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Cool down

According to Rickey Hayes, marketing manager for Sierra Air Inc. in Reno, right now is the busiest time of year, with service and repair calls tripling in the summer months. He anticipates seeing that increase since residents are spending even more time at home.

"People are much more vigilant with what's going on. They'll notice if their AC is making a rattling noise or not blowing," he notes.

One way to circumvent the failure of an air conditioning unit is to get an annual checkup by a licensed contractor. Hayes recommends scheduling routine maintenance in April or May but notes Sierra Air currently is booking maintenance visits about two weeks out.

Consumers also are installing more indoor air quality products, including filtration and purification systems.

"These equipment options can help make your home as healthy as possible," Hayes adds. "With certain products, you can get rid of 99.9 percent of bacteria and viruses."

Make the most of the housing market

One of the top questions Samuel Olson, team lead/owner of The Olson Group of RE/MAX Realty Affiliates in Reno, hears these days is, "Is now a good time to buy? Or sell?"

His answer is a resounding, "Yes! If it's a good time for you, then it's a good time."



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He explains, "The most important thing to remember is this is not 2008. The housing market is a victim of this recession, not the cause of it. People still have lots of equity. People have been in their homes longer and the appreciation has increased. Nevada's tax situation still is very advantageous."

For those considering a move, Olson has simple advice.

"Generally speaking, the real estate market is made up of thousands of different transactions, and each one has different motivations and reasons," Olson says. "People have to look at themselves and determine whether it's the right time. The right team can help you decide."

Whether 2020 is the year for a move, remodel, or deep cleaning, rest assured when it comes to the home, local professionals are taking healthy actions for a positive future.



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RESOURCES

Contact these local sources to find out more about home improvement and the real estate market today.

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Betsy.caron@bhhsdrysdale.com

Czyz's Appliance Czyzsbrandsource.com

D&D Roofing and Sheet Metal Ddroofing.com

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Interior Consign Interiorconsign.com

Just in Time Cleaning Justintimecleaningco.com

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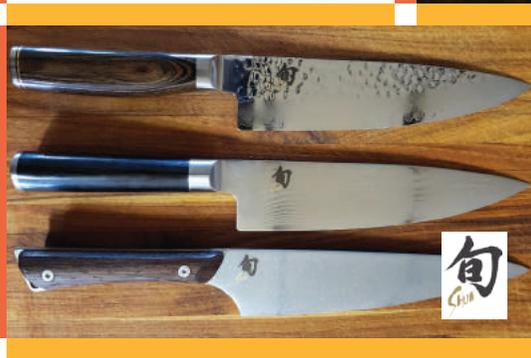
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