

Home *Guide*



Fall in love with your home

**Keeping the house healthy
and safe this season.**

WRITTEN BY HEIDI BETHEL

Reno-Tahoe residents are spending significantly more time at home due to the coronavirus and government restrictions to business and public life. As we continue to make improvements to our dwellings and with fall upon us, area professionals encourage homeowners to keep certain season-specific concepts top of mind.

Tidying for fall

Just as in the spring, several areas of interest within the home should be cleaned and checked during the autumn months. Steve Gunderson, kitchen designer for Czyz's Appliance in Reno, shares information about a few dust-and-grime hotspots to keep in mind.

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"Now is the time to pull the refrigerator out and vacuum," he says. "With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up, be sure to deep clean the fridge and freezer so you don't have any wrinkly carrots in there from the summer when you're trying to store frosted cookies."

He also suggests making sure your stove and oven are up to snuff.

"If you're going to try to self-clean your oven, do it a month before you actually need it just in case things don't go as planned," Gunderson says.

Better yet, call a professional who can come in and do it for you.

Germicide to the rescue

Bleach can be your worst enemy — at least when it comes to cleaning porous surfaces in the home, explains Kathleen Hanley, co-owner of Just in Time Cleaning in Reno.

"Everyone seems to be rushing to the store to buy bleach and other really toxic products that could end up doing more harm than good," she says.

For more than three years, Hanley's team has used a germicide that targets virus strains, including the coronavirus. She recommends readers go to local chemical stores, such as Inland Supply Co. in Reno, to purchase FDA-approved non-toxic germicides such as Simple Green to use in their disinfecting efforts.

How's your hot air?

According to Rickey Hayes, marketing manager for Sierra Air Inc. in Reno, September and October are pivotal months for the HVAC industry, when professionals highly recommend

annual furnace checkups. As Hayes explains, it's more than just improving a system's life span ... a lot more.

"You need a thorough safety check," he says. "Within a furnace, you're dealing with combustion and carbon dioxide. Things can go wrong with the burners, venting, ignition ... the list goes on and on."

Hayes recommends scheduling an inspection with an HVAC professional during the fall every year.



Look up

As leaves fall and with snowy weather on the horizon, Bret Van Dyne, project manager for D&D Roofing and Sheet Metal Inc. in Reno, recommends homeowners walk the perimeters of their homes, keeping their eyes on their roofs from below.

"A lot of times, trees rub against houses, debris interrupts water



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flow in the gutters, and even pieces of roofing on the ground can be seen when walking around," Van Dyne explains. "It's kind of like when you do a walk around your car to see if anything is funny. Look at your roof from the ground. If you see anything missing, visible fibers coming through shingles, or things seem shimmery or shiny, it's an indication that the shingle granules have worn and need to be fixed."

Van Dyne notes the southern side will likely be more worn than any other because of the degradation from the sun and wind. Should you spot problems, he urges, call a professional who can inspect the rooftop.

Latex lounging

Flippable latex mattresses are all the rage, according to Mike Berry, president of Reno Mattress Co. And it's not just because they are extremely comfortable.



"These are made of real rubber that comes from a rubber tree," he says. "It's called latex Talalay, which is the best you can get your hands on. (These mattresses) are hypoallergenic and healthy, and they last a really long time."

Berry recommends these mattresses to his customers who have allergies, both to pollen and dander, as well as feather sensitivities.

"These are a great option for those looking to breathe nice, fresh air instead of chemicals," he says.

Reclaimed renovations

Looking to add a nostalgic touch that brings warmth and history to your home? Jay Lebel, co-owner of J&S Custom Homes Inc. and L & L Reclaimed Wood LLC of Sparks, suggests using woods from way back when.

Story continues on page 30



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"People like these old woods because they're green, sustainable, and unique," Lebel says. "Mountain modern is really popular right now and can include anything from a small accent piece, such as a mantel, to a completely rustic remodel."

Lebel recommends people looking to add an authentic touch research the woods available and learn their stories.

"A reclaimed piece becomes a conversation starter that makes a big impact," he adds. With 30,000 square feet of inventory, Lebel welcomes folks to L & L's showroom to peruse these memorable materials.

The market is up

"Right now is a great time to buy and to sell," explains Betsy Caron, real estate agent with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Story continues on page 32



“The best rooms also have something to say about the people who live in them.”

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Drysdale Properties in Sparks. "For a seller, there is not a lot of inventory right now, so the price on your house can be really competitive. With that, even though the price of a home is a little higher, interest rates are at an all-time low for the buyers. It's a win-win."

This sentiment is echoed by Caryn Pollock, marketing manager for the Reno division of Toll Brothers builders. She notes that due to COVID-19 shutdowns, the market experienced a lull that has been followed by a big boom.

"We're delighted by the comeback and have people visiting us in record numbers," she adds.

As Sam Olson, team lead/owner of The Olson Group of RE/MAX Realty Affiliates in Reno, explains, when considering buying a new home, the important aspect is to determine your monthly mortgage budget and home preferences.

"You don't live in the price per square foot, you live in the floor plan. Make sure you're happy with both," Olson adds.

Finally, residential specialist Karen Walker Hill, who works for Ferrari-Lund Real Estate in Reno, says one consideration is a must.

"With our fast-paced market, have the loan pre-qualification letter in place when you're putting your offer in," she says. "Know your limits and what you can do to be competitive."

A fresh, clean start

These days, as you buy a new home, remodel your current home, or move into a new place to rent, it may be worrisome

Story continues on page 34

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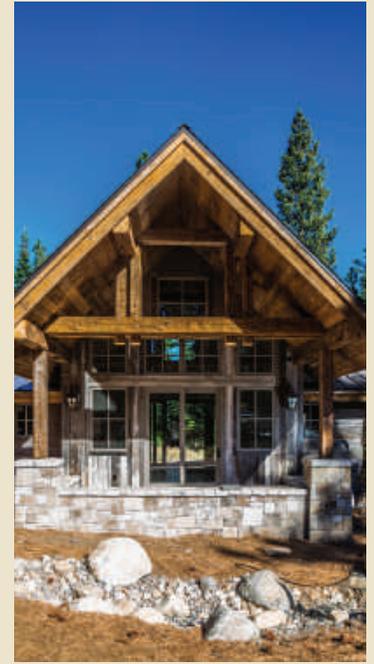
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to think of who was in the home, their story, or their health. Whether it was the past owners, construction team, or prior tenants, we cannot help but question whether the environment is sanitary or not.

Companies such as Bio Sealed in Reno offer residential and commercial sterilization services with medical-grade fog vaporization to give peace of mind in situations such as these.

"We provide the safety you seek," says Chad Grayot, managing partner of Bio Sealed.





Should you be prepping for deep fall cleaning, ridding the space of germs, buying a new mattress, renovating, or buying a new house, remember to be mindful of the market, consult the experts, and stay smart, healthy, and safe in your efforts. ■

See resources on page 36



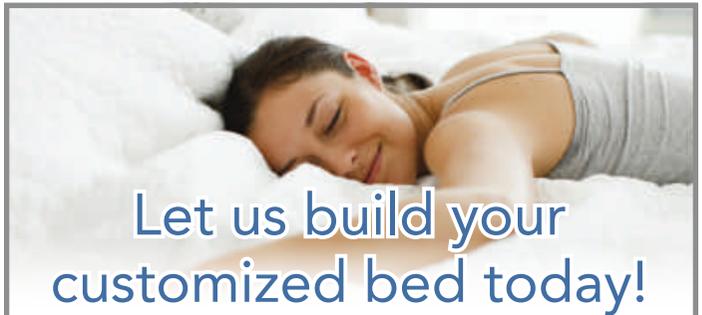
Karen Walker Hill,
Realtor®

Ferrari-Lund Real Estate
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