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ISSUE 148

Checklist: *Six Months To A New Bathroom*



Thinking about remodeling your bathroom?

Remember the golden rule of any home-improvement project: The more planning you do up front, the happier you'll be with the final result.

Use this checklist to get yourself started and keep yourself on track.

Three to Six Months Ahead

Set up a file to keep track of ideas, products and business cards. Tag photos in books and magazines. Make careful notes of manufacturers' names, product ID numbers and where you saw the item.

Keep notes of must-haves and wish-list items, so you know where you will and won't compromise. Keep in mind what's working and not working in your present bathroom, including storage and the placement of fixtures and windows.

Visit model homes and friends' remodeling projects, again noting

what will and won't work for you and your home. Bring along a camera to record ideas that you like.

Research contractors by checking with local professional associations like NARI (Nat'l Assn of the Remodeling Industry) or the NKBA (Nat'l Kitchen & Bath Assn) and asking friends for referrals.

Visit your banker or mortgage lender to discuss financing options and how much you can afford, and your financial planner to discuss tax advantages. Whatever your upper range, figure on spending about 10 percent more.

One to Three Months Ahead

Settle on a contractor, making sure expectations are clear. Get everything in writing. Also be sure you understand and are comfortable with how money will be distributed. There's generally a start-up payment, several interim disbursements and a balance due upon completion.

TRIVIA QUESTION

Question:

Who started the custom of kissing under a mistletoe?

- a) A shy boy who was never kissed any other time of year
- b) The Druids
- c) Those amorous Englishmen!
- d) Don Juan

If you know the answer call for a chance to win!

\$25 Home Depot Gift Card

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Press Release:

2010 Platinum Award

Contractor of the Year to Local Remodeler

November 19, 2010 - Vita and Jerome Burdi, Certified Remodeler and Certified Kitchen and Bath Designer of DJ's Home Improvements in Franklin Square, won the Platinum Contractor of the Year Award for 2010 at the Evening of Excellence award ceremony on Wednesday, November 17th, 2010.



The awards dinner was held at the Venetian Yacht Club overlooking the Great South Bay in Babylon Village, attended by 250 NARI members and hosted by NARI, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. Members of NARI are pledged to observe the highest standards of honesty, integrity and responsibility in the conduct of business. Winners will have their work displayed in local and national publications in the coming months.

Vita and Jerry have been staples of the Franklin Square community for 30 years. They are members

of the Franklin Square Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce and Sons of Italy. Since 2006, DJ's Home Improvements, a husband-and-wife design and remodeling duo, have submitted various entries to the CotY awards. This is their fifth annual consecutive win!



Checklist: Six Months To A New Bathroom...

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Be clear on who should order what; generally, the contractor will handle orders and schedule deliveries. If you choose to buy fixtures on your own, bear in mind that the contractor may not be contractually obligated to install what he doesn't provide.

Do all your bath renovations at once since it's more cost efficient, and contractors will work with you to keep at least one fixture operable. Depending upon the size of the project and the level of detail, a full bathroom renovation requires about four to six weeks, start to finish. Why go through it twice?



Weeks Before and During

Talk with the contractor about day-to-day routines, including where deliveries will be stored, where work areas will be set up, which bathroom workers will use. Keep pets away from the site.

Clear out linens and toiletries and set up a temporary grooming space that's out of the way of the workers. Fix individual totes for family members to keep personal items portable and organized.

Arrange a few sleepovers for the kids, if possible. Besides everyone enjoying the break, it will help keep chaos to a minimum. Have a family meeting about the process, emphasizing patience and cooperation.

Keep communication open so everyone knows what to expect and what is expected of them. Be available for questions, either on-site or by phone. Often, contractors will run into snags that require homeowner input or approval; if they are unable to reach you quickly, it can cause expensive delays.

Final Days

Note items to be finished; you and the contractor will have a final walk-through, making a punch list of to-dos before you sign off.

Recipe

Healthy Winter Squash Pie

The rich nutritional value these gourds have in common are beta carotene, potassium and fiber - just some of their most notable assets. With a nutty and often sweet taste and a smooth texture, winter squash is good and good for you.

2 nine-inch pie crusts
1/2 cup raw cashew pieces
1 cup water
4 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch or arrowroot powder
6 cups cooked puréed winter squash (buttercup, banana or Hubbard)
1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup light brown sugar, packed
4 tablespoons brandy
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
3/4 teaspoon powdered ginger
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
3/4 cup walnuts, chopped

1. Preheat oven to 400° F.
2. In a blender, grind the cashew pieces until very fine. Add the water and blend on high speed for 2 minutes. Add the cornstarch or arrowroot powder and blend on low speed for 30 seconds.
3. In a large mixing bowl, combine the squash purée, sugars, brandy and spices.
4. Add the cashew mixture to the squash and mix well.
5. Divide the pie filling equally between the two pie crusts.
6. Top with the chopped walnuts. Bake the pies for 50-60 minutes until lightly browned, cracked, and well-set.
7. Remove the pies from the oven, cool, then refrigerate overnight to allow filling to firm up. Serve cool or at room temperature.



*From Vita and Jerry Burdi
and The DJ's Crew*

Happy Holidays!



DJ's
HOME IMPROVEMENTS



**What Our
Customers Are
Saying...**

~ on Facebook:

“ Thank you, Vita...
Jerry & his crew did
beautiful work...”



Award **COTY 2009** WINNERS
2006 - 2008

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Thanks for visiting our newsletter online!

Please visit our website for more photos of our award-winning projects at

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NEW CotY Award
2010 Winners!



Jerry & Vita Burdi,
Designer,
Remodeler
has WON
AGAIN!!
Contractor
of the Year
Platinum
Award!

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DJ'S CotY 2010 Platinum Winner Residential
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As Well As...

- ✓ Upgrades to your kitchen and bath, i.e.
 - Flooring
 - Countertops
 - Vanities, etc.