# Home & Garden

GARDEN

SHO

2020 SHOW GUIDE

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Presented by

Windows

Doors & More

GO GREEN IT'S ALL ABOUT PLANTS

INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS

FROM THE MASTER GARDNERS TIPS & TRICKS

## Ready to Improve? Why Not Build New. Build More Home For Less Money!



Westport Homes is a respected name in the homebuilding industry. We have high expectations and use reputable, recognizable brands and products in each home we build. Many industry upgrades are considered standard in our homes.

Visit one of our model homes to see the Westport Homes difference.



 Aurora Coves
 Coves at Hawks Ridge
 Morgan Creek/Hidden Pointe
 Colonial Heights (Coming Soon)
 Preserves of Carroll Creek West
 Rapids of Copper Creek
 Summerwind
 Lakes at Woodfield (Coming Soon)



#### 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FORT WAYNE **HOME & GARDEN SHOW**

When: February 27 – March 1

Where: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue

- **Show Times:** 11 am 9 pm, Thursday & Friday; 10 am 9 pm, Saturday; 11 am – 5 pm, Sunday
  - **Tickets:** \$10/person at the show; \$6/senior 62+; free, kids 14 and under; \$2 ticket discount coupon available at Home-GardenShow.com; Tickets are \$5/ person after 5 pm Thursday, February 27, Home-GardenShow.com

## Show Power

At the 2020 Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show, these vendors are recognized as Legacy Vendors, and have been involved in the show for 20 years or more:

- A-1 Concrete Leveling
- Ace Gameroom Gallery
- Acres Land Trust
- ADT Security
- All American Products
- American Sunspace Additions
- Aqua Systems
- Bath Fitters
- Berry Good Enterprises
- Best Cabinet Refacing •
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- Brown Construction
- Bushey's Windows & Doors
- Champion Windows
- Coach House Garages ٠
  - Collier's Heating &
- Air/ Collier's Comfort
- Colvin Kitchen & Bath
- Conniff Sales
- Country View Greenhouse
- Crescent Ave Gardens Culligan Water Conditioning of Fort Wayne
- Doc Dancer
- DeHoff Insulation
- Du Hadway
- East Allen Equipment/ Kenn Feld
- Elegance Et. Cetera
- Everdry Waterproofing
- Faerber's Bee Window Inc. ٠
- Felger's Peat Moss

- Fort Wayne Botanical Conservatory
- Fort Wayne Fire Department
- Galbraith's Landscaping & Lawn Care
- Greg's Antiques
- Happy Feet
- Heller Nursery
- Hi Tech Foundations Indiana Warm Floors/
- Shelter specialties • Innovative Concepts
- A/V Inc.
- Invisible Fence of Fort Wavne
- JO Mory, inc.
- Key Exteriors
- KitchenCraft Korte Does it All
- LJ Stone
- ٠
  - Lauer Log Homes Leo Distributors ٠
  - Master Spas

  - Merrill Lynch Momper Insulation
  - Mutton Power Equipment
  - Niagara of Fort Wayne
  - NIPSCO
  - O'Neil's Glass
  - Old Smokey's Fireplace and Chimney
  - Olympia pools
    - OMGee/ Gustafson

- Outdoor Concepts
- Overhead Door Company of Fort Wayne
- PMI/TM sales
- Poorman's Htg/Cooling **Professional Carpet**
- Cleaning
- Purdue Master Gardeners
- Rabb/Kinetico
- Raber Patio Enclosures & Furniture LLC
- Rain Drain/Leaf Guard
- Raynor Door Authority
- Safeway Door
- Schaeffer Sales & Service
- Simply Decks
- Stanley Steemer
- Steam Team
- Stoney Acres Woodworking
- Sun Control Center
- The Almond Garten
- Three Rivers Orchid Society
- Trim A Seal of
- Indiana/Gutter Helmet Uncommon USA
- Vita Mix
- WaneTV
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Windows, Door & More
- Windsor Homes
- Wisconsin Cheese & Sausage
- Youngs Greenhouse

## Home & Garden

#### Volume 3, Issue 1 | Spring 2020

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### burnal Gazette

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## Generational Shift

When the **2020** Fort Wayne Home & Garden show opens for its 47<sup>th</sup> year, there will be a change that may not be significant to attendees, but does mark the beginning of a new period in the show's history.

The show was started in 1973 by Ernie Kerns who ran the show (literally and figuratively) until his daughter Karen Tejera came on board to help and then took over the show's operations in 1992. And like with any good family business, the next generation was ready to step-up and learn the business and get prepared for the day when the baton would be past to take over the business.

After her mother took over the show and her grandfather passed away in 2003, Becky Williamson joined the show to work alongside her mother to continue to build this family-owned home & garden show business and its legacy of



Karen Tejera and Becky Williamson, the mother-and-daughter duo, behind the Home and Garden Show.

being the tri-state area's largest home show. And like her mother did before her, with this year's show Williamson is taking the lead on the show's day-to-day operations. And like



she did, Williamson's daughter Monica is now working Mom and taking her place as the fourth generation in the show's operations

Williamson said that since she was littler her daughter always liked to be involved with the family area—helping to pick its annual theme, working with the vendors and ensuring that all the kids have fun.

Although the show has been run by his

daughter and granddaughter for many years, Kerns' imprint can still be found on many aspects of the show. For instance, Kerns believed that is was important to create a commercial promoting the show that was memorable, funny and pushed the envelope, just a little.

His philosophy was everyone knows to expect home improvement products and services at a home and garden show, so he wanted to give people who attend fun stuff to do and to be entertained (which is also apparent in the show's annual commercial).

And Williamson wants to continue to execute on the show's successful formula that was developed by her grandfather and maintained by her mother.

"I see the show as an annual family event. It is a Fort Wayne tradition," said Williamson. "I know that for attendees their homes are their biggest investment and we want to offer them an all-inone-place for the best resources and information and have the opportunity to see, touch and meet face-to-face with the experts who can help make their homes and gardens their best."

And although the show does offer fun entertainment, unique vendors and family activities, Williamson emphasizes that first and foremost it is a home and garden show and that will remain her main focus.

And with over 650+ vendors covering all aspects of the home, including kitchen and bath remodelers. builders/contractors, landscapers, interior designers, window treatment installers. experts on roofing and siding and gutter maintenance/repair services, it is clear that Williamson has made sure the show's emphasis remains on the needs of the homeowners.

And as always, a part of the show's proceeds/are donated to an organization that is making a difference in the community.

Starting this year, Williamson has selected Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne as its community partner.

The monies that the show donates to Habitat for Humanity will be used to build the Home & Garden Show Home as part of the 10 local homes the organization will build in Spring 2020.

The Home & Garden Show Home will be built in Lancia Home's new Victoria Lakes development in New Haven. The show's vendors are encouraged to donate the building materials for the home and to date Jim Bushey, owner of Bushey's Windows Doors, has donated all the home's windows and doors and Rain Drain and LeafGuard is donating all of the roofing materials.

It is also possible for show attendees to get involved as there will be the opportunity to make additional donations to the building of the home as well as being able to add their signature to the first two walls to be framed in the home.

It is the hope of Habitat for Humanity that like the Home and Garden Show itself, the partnership to provide more families in our backyard with decent and affordable housing becomes an annual event. *home-gardenshow.com* 



#### 2020 HOME & GARDEN SHOW ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Self-proclaimed grillologists **Mad Dog & Merrill** will entertain and educate with their finer points of backyard grilling. The two will be in the Garden Gallery of the Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show demonstrating creative and easy ways to use the grill to make great summer meals. *Demonstration times: 12 pm, 4 pm* and 7 pm, Thursday – Saturday; 1 pm and 3 pm, Sunday.

Throughout the show chainsaw Carver **Paul Moon** will dazzle attendees with his skill and precision as he masterfully transforms logs to artful masterpieces.

Get a head start on your home and garden projects with the opportunity to win \$1,000 at the show. Be sure to fill out the form (available in show lobby) and turn it in at the **WAJL** booth, sponsors of the giveaway, to be entered in the drawing.

Enter your name to win the hourly giveaway of \$100 in **Show Bucks**, which may be used at participating exhibitors booths.





Gardening expert Melinda Myers shares great gardening tips at the Home and Garden Show.



## *Get the Dirt on Gardening*

Green is definitely the favorite color of the Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show.

There is always tremendous interest from show attendees for all things gardening. And this year the Garden Gallery is definitely going to get lots of visitors due to the opportunities to meet and interact with nationally known garden expert **Melinda Myers**.

With over 30 years of horticulture experience, authoring 20+ books on gardening and her nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the US, Myers will be speaking about the popularity of house plants and gardening indoors.

Myers will also share tips and tricks for growing edibles and microgreens. Recognizing the important role that home gardens serve in providing nutrients for pollinators, she will also share ideas on how to attract bees. hummingbirds and butterflies to backyard gardens. In addition to her speaking engagements throughout the show, Myers will appear alongside other regional Master Gardeners as they share their wide-ranging expertise on allthings-gardening.

#### SHOW APPEARANCES

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 & FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

#### 2 pm – Garden Trends

From new plant varieties, products and growing techniques to interesting garden designs, Myers will take a look at some of the



MASTER GARDENER SPEAKERS

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

12 pm – Proper Pesticide Use For Gardens James Wolff, Purdue Extension
1 pm – Riverfront Gardens: How You Can Be Part of the Show

Dan Wire, Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department

3:30 pm – Nature As Medicine

Dr. Louise Weber, University of Saint Francis

4:30 pm – Timely and Practical Guide To Gardening With Children

Bethany Beebe, Master Gardener

5:30 pm – Popular Indiana Native Trees: Identification

John Woodmansee, Purdue Extension

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 1

12 pm – Designing A Wildlife Garden: Pollinators, Butterflies, Birds

Martha Ferguson, Riverview Native Nursery

1 pm – Gardening For Critters

Dr. Bruce Kingsbury, Purdue Fort Wayne 3:30 pm – Raising Poultry and Rabbits On Less

Than 1/3 Of An Acre

Jenny Wyss, Master Gardener

4:30 pm – Old Vs. New Landscaping in 2020 Stephanie Bailey, Master Gardener

5:30 pm – Seed Harvesting, Cleaning And Saving—The Basics Rhonda Smith, Master Gardener

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29**

11 am – Invasive Species In The City Bill Oliver, Master Gardener
12 pm – Explore The Honey Bee Megan Ryan, Southwest Honey Co.
1 pm – Activities For Healing Through Nature Dr. Louise Weber, University of Saint Francis
3:30 pm – Plant Diseases & Insects Penny Alles, Master Gardener

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

1 pm – The Cottage Garden Pam Snyder, Master Gardner trends in gardening—air plants, terrariums and easycare indoor plants. And because outdoor plants, hardier compact and more pest-resistant varieties as well as ornamental edibles and succulents continue to grow in popularity. Myers will also share details on how new materials may be blended with traditional favorites to create the perfect outdoor garden.

#### 7 pm – Attracting Bees, Hummingbirds & Butterflies To The Garden

Enjoy the many benefits of attracting bees, hummingbirds and butterflies to the garden. They not only bring beauty to the gardens, but also increase its productivity. The winged-insects enjoy the food, water and shelter the garden provides. Myers will share some attractive plant combinations and designs that are sure to attract pollinators to the garden no matter its size.

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

#### 2 pm & 7 pm – Garden Trends

From new plant varieties, products and growing techniques to interesting garden designs, Myers will take a look at some of the trends in gardening—air plants, terrariums and easy-care indoor plants. And because outdoors, hardier compact and more pest-resistant varieties as well as ornamental edibles and succulents continue to grow in popularity. Myers will also share details on how new materials may be blended with traditional favorites to create the perfect outdoor garden.

#### 5 pm – Attracting Bees,Hummingbirds & Butterflies To The Garden

Enjoy the many benefits of attracting bees, hummingbirds and butterflies to the garden. They will not only bring beauty to the garden's greens but also increase its productivity. The winged-insects will enjoy the food, water and shelter the garden provides. Myers will share some attractive plant combinations and designs that are sure to attract pollinators to the garden no matter the size.

6 pm – Book Signing

Melissa Myers will be available to sign her books

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 1

12 pm – Garden Trends

From new plant varieties, products and growing techniques to interesting garden designs, Myers will take a look at some of the trends in gardening—air plants, terrariums and easy-care indoor plants. And because outdoors, hardier compact and more pest-resistant varieties as well as ornamental edibles and succulents continue to grow in popularity. Myers will also share details on how new materials may be blended with traditional favorites to create the perfect outdoor garden.  $rac{hg}{}$ 

Quality • Tradition • Service Come see us at the Home and Garden Show. 3000 N. Wells St. Booths 1109, 1111, 1113, 1212 Fort Wayne, IN See us on Facebook **Rose Brick, Hardscape** 260-373-1919 Visit our newly-remodeled showroom and let and Fireplaces our professionals answer all your questions. rosebrick.com INTRODUCING MAC Metal siding Giving you the dream of maintenance-free wood-look siding that comes with a 40-year warranty. BRICK FIREPLACES NATURAL STONE HARDSCAPES MANUFACTURED STONE OUTDOOR LIGHTING

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## Uncover the Value of Stuff

If you always wanted to know what that "thing" you have stored in the basement that was passed down to you by your aunt or if your collection of frog figurines is valuable, bring them to the Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show where thanks to Dr. Lori Verderame you will get a little information and a big laugh.

**Dr. Lori Verderame** has a Ph.D. in art history and is a star antique appraiser on the History Channel's The Cures of Oak Island and Discovery Channel's Auction Kings.

She has also shared her expertise on the TODAY show, Anderson Live, Comedy Central's The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, The Tonight



Show, Inside Edition and Lifetime Television.

During her show, Dr. Lori's Free Antique Appraisal Comedy Show, Dr. Lori uses her vast knowledge and quick wit to provide entertainment while giving antique appraisals for items audience members have brought to the Home and Garden Show.

As she appraises each item, Dr. Lori will offer some history and insight as well as having fun with the person who brought the item to be appraised. The humor comes when Dr. Lori tests the audience on their knowledge and the potential value of the items through back-andforth bante.

"Anybody can bring anything," said Dr. Lori. She is confident that through her 20 years of doing 150 shows and the appraisal of more than 20,000 items each year, she has likely seen it all. Dr. Lori began her career as an appraiser while working in museums when people would come to the museum wanting to know the worth of things they owned.

"It isn't magic. I have three degrees and held positions at museums that have provided me with extensive training to do appraisals," she said. "I make it look easy, but it is a lot of hard work."

Dr. Lori also explained that what makes her appraisals unique and truthful is that she does not collect or sell antiques and has no interest in acquiring objects; thus, she is able to truthfully tell owners what an object is worth as she has no financial interest in establishing the object's value. "There is a difference between monetary and sentimental value," she said. "Often people collect and keep items because they are something they like and not necessarily because they are interested in their monetary value."

But, if you want to begin a collection, Dr. Lori suggests you start by establishing what the goal is foryour collection—are you collecting for you or are you looking to collect items that will eventually have increased monetary value?

It is a good idea to collect objects you are familiar with and you want to make sure they are are authentic. If you are looking to collect things that will increase in value, Dr. Lori is also willing to share her advice.

"In 2000, I told everyone to collect Art Deco items. At the time it was very inexpensive and in 2020 it would be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Art Deco," she said. "And now, in 2020, there is great demand for Art Deco items—part of collecting is knowing the patterns of what goes in and out of favor."

According to Dr. Lori popularity of items from certain time periods come in 50 and 100 year cycles. She also explained that for something to be considered an antique it needs to be older than 100 years.

Dr. Lori said that some of the most popular items people want to get appraised are toys. "People like to collect things that help them recapture their childhoods," she said.

She said that be nostalgia is the main reason people begin to collect certain items. She said that people also like to collect things that allow them to relate back to a period in their past or a time in history that is of interest. "We relate to objects. It is a way for us to connect with the past," said Dr. Lori. Drloriv.com

#### DR. LORI'S FREE ANTIQUE APPRAISAL COMEDY SHOW SCHEDULE

#### FEBRUARY 27, 28, 29: 3 PM & 6 PM MARCH 1: 12 PM & 3 PM

Arrive early and be seated 30 minutes prior to showtimes. Dr. Lori appraises items first come, first serve beginning with those seated in the front row and working her way back.

If you are not able to get your item appraised during her show, Dr. Lori will be available to appraise items afterwards for \$25 per item.

Show attendees are welcome to bring one item per show for a free appraisal. Ideally you will bring the actual item with you, however, if the item is too large or can't be transported, please bring photos. Photos of the item should be from various angles to help improve the accuracy of the appraisal.

If you want to get more than one item appraised by Dr. Lori, you may bring a different item to any of the the additional Dr. Lori shows. You can also bring a friend or two with you to have them present one of your other items.







Let Us Help You Create Your Perfect Patio



## Surviving a Home Renovation

Homeowners invest large sums into improving their homes to make them more comfortable or to increase their odds of quickly selling their home. The Remodeling Futures Program at the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University predicted U.S. spending on home renovations and repairs to reach \$327 billion this year.

Whether you are doing a large renovation or a small remodel, home life is likely to be turned upside down during the project. Furniture may be moved, walls may be demolished, water or electricity may be turned off and appliances may be missing or unavailable. Home improvements often drum up dust and disarray. Such projects can try the patience of any homeowner, and things may get worse before they aet better.

Even though remodeling can be taxing, the end result is often worth it. Here's how to look forward to the silver lining and come out unscathed.

• Discuss the project before it starts. All family members should be in agreement before the first hammer is swung. Decide on as many details as you can ahead of time and have a firm plan in place. Establish back-up choices for tiles or color schemes in case the items you want are out of stock. Trying to make decisions under duress may result in bad choices.

#### • Do one project at

a time. It's tempting to want to improve as much as possible at once to maximize motivation and renovation materials. However, having no place in which to escape the mess can elevate stress



levels. Do not think about renovating kitchens and bathrooms all at once, or you will not have any working fixtures for tasks like washing up.

#### • Have everything

**in place.** Before demolition even begins, have building materials bought and stored, contractors and subcontractors lined up, and see what you can do to minimize the time workers need to spend in your home.

• Plan for delays. Your projects will likely take longer if you are doing the work yourself in your free time. Build lots of extra time into the project so you are not disappointed when delays happen—even when you've done your best to avoid them.

#### • Plan an escape

**zone.** Construction environments can be messy, loud, smelly, and a host of other unsavory adjectives. The chaos that ensues when life is turned upside down can be overwhelming, particularly for the person who spends the most time in the home while work is being done. Build escape moments into the plan and make sure everyone else at home is on board. During the real grind of the project, a night or two at a hotel may be a welcome respite. Mg

#### presented by



Appearing daily on th stage in the Conference Hall! Guests may bring 1 item Per person, per show for a free appraisal! Please be seated early THU-SAT | 3p & 6p SUN | 12p &

GARDENE

Offering insights daily in the Appleseec Room!

HU& FRI 2p & 7p

SAT 12p, 5p & 7p

2p (kid-focused

appearance in Family Fun Area)

media sponsors SUNDAY | 12p

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wane.com

## FEB 27-MAR 1 MEMORIAL COLISEUM

SHO

after 5p: only \$5!

FortWayne

Thu-Fri 11a-9p Thursday Sat 10a-9p Sun 11a-5p

Admission \$10 Seniors 62+ \$6 Kids 0–15 FREE



A portion of proceeds from the show will be donated to the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne's Home & Garden Show Build!

#### **MASTER GARDENER SCHEDULE**

12:00p Proper Pesticide Use for Gardens James Wolff 1:00p Riverfront 'Gardens': How You Can Be Part of the Show Dan Wire 2:00p Garden Trends Melinda Myers

- **THURSDAY** 3:30p Nature as Medicine Dr. Louise Weber

- 4:30p Timely and Practical Guide to Gardening with Children Bethany Beebe 5:30p Popular IN Native Trees: Identification and Lore John Woodmansee 7:00p Attracting Bees, Hummingbirds &

#### Butterflies to the Garden Melinda Myers

12:00p Designing a Wildlife Garden: Pollinators, Butterflies, Birds Martha Ferguson

- 1:00p Gardening for Critters Dr. Bruce Kingsbury
- FRIDAY 2:00p Garden Trends *Melinda Myers* 3:30p Raising Poultry & Rabbits on Less Than 1/3 Acre Jenny Wyss
  - 4:30p Old vs. New: Landscaping in 2020 Stephanie Bailey
  - 5:30p Seed Harvesting, Cleaning, and Saving: The Basics Rhonda Smith 7:00p Attracting Bees, Hummingbirds & Butterflies to the Garden *Melinda Myers*
- 11:00a Invasive Species in the City Bill Oliver
  12:00p Explore the Honey Bee Megan Ryan
  1:00p Activities for Healing Through Nature Dr. Louise Weber SATURDAY 2:00p Garden Trends *Melinda Myers* 3:30p Plant Diseases & Insects: You Don't Have to Be MacGyver to Handle That Mild Winter Survivor *Penny Alles* 5:00p Attracting Bees, Hummingbirds & Butterflies to the Garden Melinda Myers 6:10p Book signing Melinda Myers 7:00p Garden Trends Melinda Myers

12:00p Garden Trends Melinda Myers 1:00p The Cottage Garden Pam Snyder

## MAD DOG

offering tips daily in the Garden Gallery THU-SAT | 12p, 4p & 7p SUNDAY | 1p & 3p

- p Indiana Wild: Live Animal Show
- **All Star Martial Arts**
- Demonstration
- to All Star Martial Arts
- Demonstration
- p Indiana Wild: Live Animal Show
- Ip Indiana Wild: Live Animal Show
- 2p Melinda Myers, Calling All Kide Grow Your Own Microgreen Garden!

MAJIC95.

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#### **EXHIBITORS** & **BOOTH NUMBERS**

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### Generating an Understanding

There are two types of emergency electrical generators—the portable type and the larger standby type—and there are pros and cons for both of them.

#### EMERGENCY GENERATORS

With the American power grid becoming less reliable every year, power outages are bound to occur more frequently and last longer. That means you could end up sitting in the dark, sweating without air conditioning and eating canned and packaged meals while \$300 worth of food spoils in your freezer. Your basement could also flood since the sump pump is now worthless, not to mention what your family will do without its access to a television or computer.

A generator can help with dealing with the loss of electricity. The smaller, portable generators are great for powering the essentials, like the refrigerator and microwave, while large standby generators can power everything in your house. Both types of generators can deliver back up power.

Portable Generators: When the power goes out, you have to start up a gas-powered portable generator and plug it into your appliances or subpanel. Prices are between \$500 - \$1,000 depending on the output.

Standby Generators: These generators are powered by natural gas or propane and start automatically during power outages. Prices start at \$5,000 for a 7,000-watt unit, including installation.

#### WHAT GENERATOR DO YOU NEED?

Add up your power needs. Estimate your power needs before you shop for a generator. Look for a label on each appliance that you want to power during an electrical outage. Add up the watts to determine the generator size you need.

The label on each appliance will contain information about wattage, model number and the year it was made. Some labels are right inside the door of the appliance; others are on the back. Write down the item and how much wattage it uses. Be sure to include essential items, like refrigerators, freezers, a well pump (if you have one) and a sump pump if your basement could flood. You can go a few hours or even days

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without an oven (use the microwave instead) and

an air conditioner—they use a lot of power and would require you buy a much bigger generator.



Add together the items' wattage, then multiply that number by 1.5 (appliances need the extra power to start up). That's the minimum wattage required for your generator.

#### PLUG-IN GENERATORS

A portable back-up generator with extension cords is the simplest and least expensive backup system. Keep the generator at least 10 feet from your house to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

It is important to use a heavy-duty, twistlock extension cord to plug into the inlet that's connected to your subpanel. The special ends keep the cord from pulling loose.

The most basic method of supplying backup power is running a portable generator in your yard, then plugging in extension cords that plug into your appliances. It's also the least expensive solution since you don't need to hire an electrician to install a subpanel. The downside is you have to run extension cords everywhere you want power and you are limited to how many things you can plug in at once (most generators have either two or four outlets). You also have to start and maintain the generator.

When the power goes out, place the generator on a flat surface outside. Don't set it under awnings, canopies or carports or inside the house or garage. It's

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1211 W. COLISEUM BLVD. FORT WAYNE, IN BONEDRY.COM • 260.267.6189 absolutely critical that you keep the generator away from your house and especially away from doors and windows. More people die from carbon monoxide poisoning from the gas engines on generators than from the disasters causing the power outages.

It is a good idea to plug in a carbon monoxide detector when using a portable generator. It will alert you if generator exhaust reaches a dangerous level inside the house.

Extension cords must be at least 14 gauge to carry adequate power. Follow the cord's maximum wattage rating (listed on the cord's label). Start up the generator, then plug in the extension cords. Be careful not to overload the generator by plugging in highwattage appliances that you didn't plan for. It'll trip the breaker or blow a fuse on the generator, or damage t he appliance motors.

Options for portable generators include wheels (get them—generators are very heavy to lift) and electric (key) starts rather than pull-starts. Consider how long the generator can run on a tank of gas. Some run just a few hours, so you'll have to get up in the middle of the night to add fuel; others have 16-gallon fuel tanks that can run up to 10 hours.

#### STANDBY GENERATORS

Standby generators automatically turn on when the power goes out—you don't have to do a thing. This is the best option if you frequently lose electricity and want to keep all or most of your appliances running. Most standby generators are powerful enough to run a central air conditions, kitchen appliance and other large items simultaneously. They're also quieter than portable generators and you don't need to worry about running cords or storing gasoline.

A transfer switch instantly monitors power. If you lose electricity, it starts the generator automatically. When power is restored the transfer switch shuts off the generators. Standby generators connect to your home's fuel supply (natural gas or propane). If you don't already have one of these fuel lines coming into the house, you'll need to install a propane tank.

Standby generators range from \$5,000 for a 7,000-watt unit to more than \$15,000 for a 30,000-watt unit (installation included). Larger sizes and standby units are usually available through special order from electricians who can then install the standby generators.





## Ways to Reduce Household Trash

Homeowners may feel like they're always taking out the trash. Active families tend to generate a lot of garbage, and it's not uncommon to find the kitchen trash pail overflowing each day.

A report from SaveOnEnergy found that garbage production numbers are staggering.

The average American produces 4.4 pounds of trash each day. That means the average family of four can generate 17.6 pounds of trash a day. Every year, Americans produce 254 million tons of trash.

Thanks to modern sanitation systems, which remove garbage in a timely manner, it's difficult to get a good handle on just how much trash families generate. But one look at the statistics—and the size of landfills—clearly illustrates that garbage is a concern. Thankfully, there are ways to cut down on personal waste.

- Recycle as much as you can. Seek out facilities that will recycle items that are not collected in curbside pickup.
- Avoid buying disposable products. Reusing items saves money and resources. Many disposable products are packaged in plastic, which may be produced with toxic

substances that can leach into the environment.

• Use old rags for cleaning. When scouring the house, opt for old rags made from towels and T-shirts that are past their prime.

• Mend broken items if possible. Before tossing, figure out if something can be repaired. A simple fix may give it a few more years of use.

• Cook only what you can eat. The UN Environmental Program estimates that one-third of the food produced for human consumption across the globe is wasted. Store and use leftovers efficiently. Compost usable

items. Egg shells, fruit rinds, coffee grounds, and more can be placed in a compost heap instead of the garbage.

• Donate used items. Books, magazines, toys, clothing, household items—all of these things can be donated or traded.

• Use reusable tote bags when shopping. Keep plastic shopping bags out of landfills by bringing along cloth bags to the stores.

• **Stop junk mail.** Contact companies to remove your name from mailing lists. Invest in a shredder and turn junk mail into packing materials or bedding for pet cages.

Reducing trash generated at home can greatly benefit the environment. *Ing* 









SPRING 2020 19





## Home Trends

Although the heyday of the real estate boom of the early 2000s have not quite returned, things look positive. In the United States, 1,226,000 new homes were built in 2016, according to data from *Consumer*  *Reports*. That was the most since 2007.

Resales also have been more promising. The National Association of Realtors® says the median number of days a home was on the market in April 2017 reached a new low of 29 days.



However, low supply levels did stanch existing home sales somewhat. By mid-2017, the market was a seller's market, with more people in the market for homes than properties available. But sales during that time were still outpacing sales figures from a year prior.

Low interest rates on mortgages and more confidence in the economy has driven many people to make improvements to their existing homes. As is typical, the things homeowners are looking for in their homes has evolved from years past. The following are some trends that are helping to steer the real estate market further.

• Smaller homes: Home sizes in the United States steadily increased for decades, eventually leading to an average of 2,453 square feet in 2014, according to U.S. Census figures. However, Realtor.com reported in 2015 that new construction homes have already begun to shrink by 40 square feet. There seems to be a slight trend toward more modest homes as people consider affordability and maintenance on larger properties. The National Association of Home Builders states buyers are now looking for smaller, more livable homes with flexible floor plans, energy-efficient appliances and plenty of storage space.

• Matte finishes: Stainless steel and luster have been popular for years. However, the next big thing is matte finishes on faucets, appliances and even in countertops. These less flashy finishes are prized for their warmth and elegance. While some high-end models with matte finishes have been available for several years, even less expensive models are now available.

#### Smarter technology:

Many homeowners are embracing smart technology throughout their homes, but it's not just lights that turn on with voice command or more efficient thermostats. Innovative technology includes toilets that can autonomously stay clean and sanitized, refrigerators equipped with cameras so homeowners can see the contents inside and indoor food recyclers that can turn food waste into fertilizer.

Staying abreast of the ever-changing trends in home improvement and real estate can help you make the best choices with regard to buying and building your home.



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Steps to Take Before an Appraiser's Visit

Homeowners unfamiliar with the appraisal process might not know if there is anything they can do to make the process go more smoothly. While certain variables involved in the appraisal process, such as location of the home and the value of surrounding homes, are beyond homeowners' control, the Appraisal Institute recommends homeowners take the following steps before an appraiser visits their home.

• Clean the house. A dirty home that is full of clutter will not make the best impression on appraisers. Dirty homes may be vulnerable to insect infestations that can lead to structural problems with the home. While a dirty home is not necessarily an indicator of infestations or a reflection of a home's value, a clean home will create a stronger first impression with the appraiser.

## • Make any necessary repairs ahead of the appointment.

Homeowners who have been putting off repairs should make them before the appraiser arrives. Homes with repairs that still need to be made will likely be valued less than similar homes with no such repair issues. Though repairs can be costly, investing in home repairs will likely increase both the appraisal and resale value of the home.

## • Obtain all necessary documents before the appraiser arrives.

Homeowners who have certain documentation at the ready can speed up the appraisal process. Such documentation may include a survey of the house and property; a deed or title report; a recent tax bill; if applicable, a list of items to be sold with the house; purchase history of the home; and the original plans and specifications of the home.

## • Inform the appraiser about recent improvements.

Homeowners can inform appraisers about any recent improvements to the home and the cost of those improvements. The value of home improvements with regard to a home's appraisal value vary depending on a host of variables but having such information at the ready can help appraisers make the most informed appraisal possible.



Shown here are images from the newly constructed Lake James home built by Kevin Hunter, owner of Windows Doors & More, where he utilized his 37 years in the renovation & remodeling business to create the perfect lake residence

With more than 37-years experience in the renovation & remodeling business, Windows Doors & More owner Kevin Hunter and his team are applying their expertise to do more extensive remodeling projects, as well as building original homes in northeast Indiana's lakes region.

This Lake James house showcases the best of the best of what Windows Doors & More does when it comes to kitchens, baths, windows and doors. It also represents the team's expertise in incorporating the latest design trends and creating an inviting living space to truly make a house a home.

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