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# How to Choose the Best Flooring for Man's Best Friend

Pets are an extension of today's families. We love our pets, but they can take a toll on your home; accidental messes, pet hair, you name it. If you are like me, you want your pet to be able to roam the house freely, and I don't want to worry about my carpet and flooring.

So, what are my options? There are several flooring manufacturers that have the answers you're looking for. Vinyl flooring is durable and cost effective, making it a good choice of materials for homeowners with pets: LVP - Luxury Vinyl Plank is waterproof, pet proof, and easy to clean as well as comfortable, quiet underfoot, and available in many different looks and natural stone. Waterproof laminate - yes, you heard that right, has made some big changes in the last couple of years making it a go to option for many pet owners. Carpet One H2O Mirror Lake Laminate flooring has been



one of the best in pet approved flooring - it's waterproof, scratch resistant, and warm underfoot. Laminate is tough and durable, resisting stains and markings from messes. When you know how to ch-

oose the right flooring for your pets, you can make your home more comfortable for everyone.

The best floor for your pet will depend on factors that include your budget, type of animal, and energy level. From vinyl to laminate, carpet and tile, there's so many flooring products designed with pets in mind. Vision Floors & More Carpet ONE has all your options covered. Just ask Blue and Gus!



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# DECKARD SURVEYING

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## RETRACEMENT SURVEY

This type of survey is commonly performed when a landowner wants to know where their boundary lines are. Permanent monuments will be set at the boundary corners, and a plat map will be created.

## ORIGINAL BOUNDARY SURVEY

An original boundary survey is performed to create a new tract of land. The surveyor will also prepare a land description for the new parcel that can then be used in a deed to transfer that tract to a new owner.

## TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEYS

A topographic survey is often the first step in a civil engineering project. A surveyor will collect ground elevations, locations of improvements, and other site features to create a map of the project site. This data can then be used for the foundation of any kind of earthwork or construction design.

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# 4 signs you need to replace your soffit and fascia

Your home's soffits and fascia boards protect your attic and roof from water infiltration and keep pests out. Here are four signs it's time to have yours repaired or replaced.

1. The paint is peeling or flaking. Once the paint on your soffits and fascia begins to deteriorate, it creates an opening for moisture to permeate the boards. This can result in water damage to the roof, interior walls and siding.

2. The gutters are loose. The soffit and fascia boards act as the support system for your gutters. Consequently, if you notice your gutters are wobbly and unsteady, the fascia or soffits likely require repair.

3. Pests are hanging around your home. Your soffits and fascia boards are designed to keep rodents, bugs and other small critters from getting into your home. Therefore, bite marks, nesting materials or droppings in your home's attic often indicate that your soffits and fascia must be repaired.

4. There's little to no ventilation. Soffits provide ventilation and prevent condensation in your attic. If you notice that your home seems stuffy, your soffits are probably blocked or damaged.

Contact a local roofing contractor to inspect your soffits and fascia and make any necessary repairs.





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# Embellish your yard with striking conifers

Do you want to add plants to your yard to make it more attractive? Flowers are an obvious choice, but conifers can add striking contrast. Whether you choose standard size, bushy or dwarf, here are some of the advantages of planting evergreens:

- They shelter your home from cold winds, reducing your heating costs
- They attract pretty birds to nest or take refuge
- Many species can be pruned into elegant shapes like cubes, spheres and cones

- Unlike deciduous trees, which lose their foliage in winter, conifers retain their beautiful color and volume all year

- Planting several conifers together can increase privacy in your yard and block out sound

- Many types of conifers are edible and have medicinal properties

Cedars, spruces, false cypresses, junipers and pines — visit your local nursery to find the ideal conifers to enhance your landscaping.



# Debunking 3 gardening myths



Are you new to gardening? If so, you've probably heard all types of advice floating around. To ensure you start out on the right foot, here are three common gardening myths debunked.

## 1. "Coffee grounds do wonders for the garden"

Have you been told coffee grounds can chase away slugs or unwanted insects, enrich the soil or act as mulch? The truth is that sprinkling this organic waste around the base of your plants doesn't really do anything. It can even prevent water and air circulation. Simply add it to your compost.

## 2. "Potted plants should always have a drainage layer"

You don't need a base layer of small rocks or clay balls if you're planting vegetables or flowering plants in containers with drainage holes. To prevent soil from coming out of the holes after watering, line the bottom of the container with old newspaper or a coffee filter.

## 3. "Never put rhubarb leaves in the compost"

This misconception stems from the fact that rhubarb leaves are slightly toxic and unsafe to consume. However, don't hesitate to add them to your compost bin. The oxalic acid they contain quickly transforms into a harmless substance during the decomposition process.

Trust the horticultural experts for accurate and reliable information on the best gardening practices.

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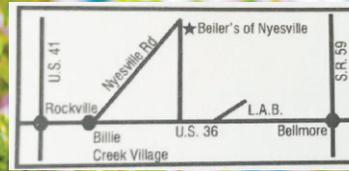
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# How to re-caulk a shower

Applying fresh caulk to your shower can instantly brighten up the space. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to do it.

- Choose a caulk. There are two types of caulk for tubs and tiles: silicone and acrylic latex. Silicone caulk is durable and flexible but tricky to apply. Latex caulk is easy to apply but may need to be redone more often.

- Remove the existing caulk. Use a utility or putty knife to scour the edges of the old caulk. Once separated, firmly pull it away from the surface. Be careful not to scratch or damage your shower while doing this.

- Clean the area. Remove any remaining caulk residue with a dry, non-abrasive scouring pad. Then, wipe the area with a damp cloth and let it dry completely.

- Apply the new caulk. Cut the tip of the nozzle at a 45-degree angle and insert it into the caulk gun. Hold the nozzle at a 90-degree angle from the surface you want to caulk. Apply steady pressure to the trigger and move your nozzle down the entire surface length. Keep the gun moving consistently, so the caulk doesn't thin out or pile up.

- Smooth the caulk. Take a damp cloth and gently press a small area of the material into the caulking line with your finger. In one continuous motion, drag your finger down the length of the seam to create a nice smooth surface.

Finally, let the caulk set for 24 hours before using your shower. You can pick up everything you need for this quick fix at your local hardware store.



## What material should you choose for your deck?



Do you want a backyard deck where you can enjoy the warm, sunny days of summer? Before you can kick back and relax, you must choose the right building material.

### **PLENTY OF CHOICES**

There's no shortage of deck materials for you to choose from. Here are a few examples:

- Natural wood is rustic, customizable and affordable. However, it requires regular maintenance, which can add to the cost.

- Treated wood is a popular and affordable material. Keep in mind that it must be pressure washed and re-stained annually.

- Composite is made from recycled wood and plastic.

It's easy to maintain, safe and durable. However, it can be tricky to install.

- PVC is less common than other materials. Nevertheless, it's durable, easy to install and requires virtually no maintenance. It can also be made from recycled materials.

### **HOW TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE**

To make an informed decision, consider the advantages and disadvantages of each material. Consider your budget, the required maintenance and your esthetic preferences. You must also assess your long-term needs.

For professional results, entrust your deck installation to an expert.

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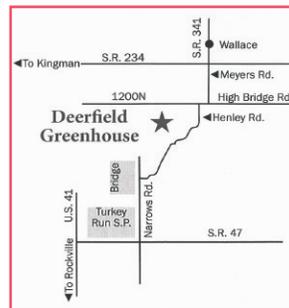
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# Stainless steel pools and hot tubs: a luxurious trend



Are you thinking about adding a pool or hot tub to your backyard? Do you want a stylish and modern solution? Here's what you need to know about stainless steel pools and hot tubs.

## NUMEROUS ADVANTAGES

Although stainless steel residential pools and hot tubs are relatively new in North America, they're commonplace in Europe. For example, they're popular in municipal and public settings for hygienic reasons.

Bacteria and other germs can't penetrate the surface of stainless steel, which ensures better water quality and simplified maintenance. Moreover, all the pool and hot tub accessories are made of the same material, so they don't discolor, making them look new for a long time.

Unlike most pools and hot tubs, stainless steel ones are environmentally friendly because they're entirely recyclable. They're also ideal for cold climates as they're frost resistant. Lightweight and free-standing, they're quick to install and can be customized to suit your needs.

Stainless steel pools and hot tubs are more expensive than their concrete, plastic or vinyl counterparts. However, you don't have to pay as much for upkeep, maintenance and repairs. For example, you'll spend far less on water treatment products, cover replacements, paint and more.

Stainless steel pools and hot tubs are top-of-the-line, long-term investments. Contact a specialist in your area to make your project a reality.

## How to deal with a leaky roof

Leaky roofs are, unfortunately, a common occurrence. If not dealt with promptly, water seeping into your home can cause various short- and long-term problems. Here's what to do if you see or suspect your roof is leaking.

- Confirm that the leak is coming from the roof. Several signs can help you determine whether the water leak is coming from your roof or another area of your home, such as the windows. Water stains on the ceiling, high humidity in the basement, mold in the attic and swelling paint are telltale signs that water is leaking from the roof.
- Locate the source. If possible, try to locate the source or cause of the leak. Pay close attention to areas with excess condensation

or where water spots grow after heavy rain, for example. It's OK if you can't find the exact source of the leak. Your observations will help guide the professional in carrying out the necessary repairs.

- Take immediate action. Use a bucket or several towels to catch or absorb the water. Ventilate the area to dry out the wet materials. In addition to contacting a professional roofer to correct the situation, you should reach out to your insurance company to find out how much you'll be compensated.

If neglected, a roof leak can quickly damage the structure of your home and increase the risk of you or your family developing health problems. Act now.





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## 5 mistakes to avoid when cleaning your windows and mirrors

Clean mirrors, windows and glass furniture add instant sparkle to your decor. In your haste to get the shine, you may make mistakes that cause you to double your efforts. Avoid these five habits to get the best results the first time.

1. Cleaning when the weather or lighting is bad, like freezing rain or glaring sun
2. Neglecting to dust surrounding spaces, like mirror frames, before cleaning
3. Using a poor-quality cleaning solution
4. Drying surfaces with a non-absorbent, dirty or lint-covered cloth
5. Forgetting to wipe the squeegee after each pass

Purchase the best cleaning products and accessories at your local stores. You could also try hiring a cleaning pro for dazzling results.



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# 4 tips for tidying your home



Have you carefully sorted your belongings down to the essentials, but your home is still a mess? Don't worry! Here are a few tips to help you tidy up.

1. Take advantage of space. Go around your home and look for unused spaces underneath staircases and beds, over cupboards and behind doors. Make

the most of this space with hooks, shelves and storage bins.

2. Store seasonal items. For instance, put your camping gear and Christmas decorations in marked bins or bags and store them in your basement or shed. Make sure these items are easily accessible when you need them.

3. Keep frequently used items at hand. It doesn't make sense to stow away items you use several times a day or week. Instead, place them within easy reach or on attractive displays. Keep rarely used products out of sight unless they're particularly decorative.

4. Invest in multifunctional furni-

ture. Convertible furniture, multi-purpose shelving and storage benches or ottomans are perfect for stowing away things in style. Visit your local stores to explore your options.

Consult a specialist in your area for personalized advice on organizing your home.

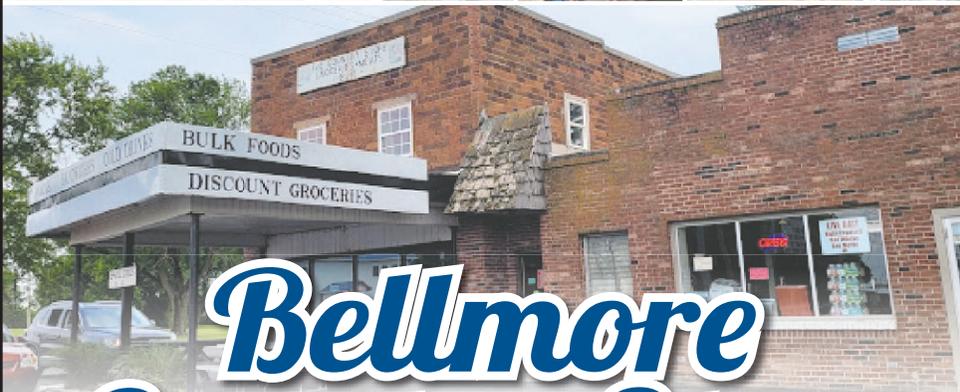
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# 3 elements to consider when buying a waterfront property



Do you want to buy a home near the sea, close to a river or on a lake? Whether you're considering building or buying an existing home, there are several things you need to know before moving near water.

## 1. High price tag

Homes with direct access to the water usually have a high price tag. For example, maintaining a dock or

seawall adds to the total cost of the property. You don't get that same easy access with a water-view property and may have to rent a space for your boat if you enjoy water activities.

## 2. Increased risk

Although properties near water offer beautiful scenery, they come with added risks, including frequent repairs due to wind and possible flooding.

Moreover, your insurance premium will likely increase and should be factored into your budget.

## 3. Proximity to services

Not all properties near water have the same access to certain services, such as drinking water, electricity, internet and local shops. Additionally, being close to the water doesn't necessarily mean you'll be able to use

a boat. Some municipalities prohibit gas-powered watercraft because of noise and safety concerns.

Are you looking forward to owning a waterfront property?

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