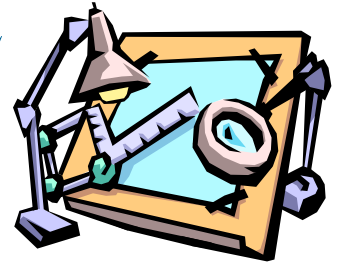


CHB SPOTLIGHT

COLORADO HOME BUILDERS —
YOUR LOCAL CUSTOM HOME
BUILDER SINCE 1993



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a New year of
happiness and peace!

Whatever is beautiful,
Whatever is meaningful,
Whatever brings you happiness,
may it be yours this holiday season and throughout the year!

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR A WINTERSTORM

Winter storms can be dangerous and damaging if you are unprepared. When the temperature starts to drop, it's time to think about getting ready.

Things You'll Need:

Batteries , Portable Radios, Candles
Sand, Space Heaters, Rock Salt
Snow Shovels, Flashlights

- ◆ Bring any outdoor furniture inside (unless it is extremely durable). You can store it in your garage, basement or storage shed.
- ◆ Remove any outdoor items that can be blown around by the wind and may possibly damage your house.
- ◆ Consider whether any dead trees might be a hazard to your house if they were to fall. You may want to have them removed by a professional tree service.
- ◆ Make sure that you have flashlights, with extra batteries, and candles to provide light during a power failure.
- ◆ Keep some extra bottles of drinking water on hand. If you have a well with an electric pump (and will thus lose all water during a power failure), prepare some tubs of water for cleaning and toilet flushing. You may want to fill the bathtub when a storm is coming.
- ◆ Have a battery-operated radio in the house.
- ◆ Stock up on rock salt and sand for dealing with icy and slippery driveways and sidewalks.
- ◆ Make sure that you have good snow shovels ready.
- ◆ Arrange in advance for snow-plowing service - it is very difficult to book a snow-plowing service the day after a big snowstorm.
- ◆ Keep a space heater and fuel in the garage if you live in a particularly cold area - especially if you have electrical heat in the house. Care should be taken to ensure that only heaters safe for indoor use are used.
- ◆ Keep food in the house that you can prepare without electricity. Note that your needs will vary depending on the type of appliances you have (gas or electric).



HOW TO...

How to Choose an Exterior Front Door

- ◆ **Size** - When building a new home, you will usually have the ability to choose a standard 6'8" front door or possibly have the room to do a 8'0" front door (or even taller) in a two-story foyer. Just because a door is taller does not mean that it is going to be visually appealing. You also can choose how wide you would like your door to be. Most front doors are 3'0" wide and have one or 2 sidelights that may be 12" or 14" each. The width of your foyer area will determine how wide your door can be.
- ◆ **Materials** - The material used in construction is the #1 determinant in the price of a front door. Steel, fiberglass (that has a wood look), and real wood doors are all options that you will find in the marketplace. Steel is generally going to be the cheapest type of door. They look good, but if you get a ding in it there is little that you can do to fix it. Fiberglass composite doors are a product of technology. They are durable and hold up to the elements very well. Real wood doors (oak, cherry, mahogany, knotty alder - etc) can be very visually appealing. The fact that they are wood means that they contract and expand with the weather. This also means they will work awesome one day and may not work very well the next day. Furthermore they will require regular maintenance
- ◆ **Glass in the door** - There are an endless number of glass combinations that are available. The amount and type of glass that you choose will have a large impact on the price of your front door. Owners will usually choose from a half-glass or full glass model with sidelights to match. Choose what you like the best - the more glass in the door the more light it will let into your house.
- ◆ **Hardware** - You will want to know what finish your door handle is going to be because you will want your hinges to match. If doing an 8'-0" high door it is highly suggested that you do a three point locking system on the door. This will cost extra money but it is vital in getting the door to latch properly over time and maintaining a good seal from the outside elements.
- ◆ **Finishing** - Paint or Stain, that is generally the question. If you are doing a steel door you will want to paint both sides of the door. If you are doing a fiberglass composite door you have the option of staining or painting your front door. Some owners will stain one side of the door and paint the other. A special gel stain with top coat finish is used for fiberglass doors. When using a real wood door it most common to stain the door. If you stain the door make sure you put several clear coats over the stain to seal the door.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Our character will not be shaped by what has happened to us, our character rather is formed by what we did about the things that happened to us"



Q&A SECTION

We have included this section where you can ask any questions you might have in regards to construction, home inspections, remodels, renovations, additions and DIY projects. Your questions will be answered in our newsletters. **PLEASE EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:** coloradohomebuilders@yahoo.com



Question: I'm decorating my house for the holidays, but I'm concerned about my electric bill. What can I do?

With energy prices at record highs, many people may think twice before decking their halls with electricity-draining Christmas lights. Energy-conscious consumers can now choose from a growing array of LED lights that use less than one-tenth the energy of traditional incandescent bulbs. However, LED lights tend to cost more up front, and shoppers should evaluate what they could save later on their energy bill.

LED stands for "light-emitting diodes." It's a technology that has been around for a while, but until recently there were few products that used LED's in Christmas lights at a price that compared with traditional strands. That's changed, though. Now major retailers carry LED Christmas lights in a variety of styles and colors and fake Christmas trees lit with LED's.

LED's can be used indoors and outdoors, same as traditional lights, but they use just a fraction of the energy that conventional bulbs consume. And LED's use plastic lenses, instead of glass and filaments, and are virtually unbreakable. Meaning they also could prevent one of the season's inevitable headaches: the search for that one faulty light that blows out the whole strand. Unlike incandescent, if a single LED goes out, it doesn't affect the others. But LED's are much less likely to burn out: They can last about 200,000 hours while conventional bulbs last 1,000 to 2,000 hours.

Holiday Lighting Safety

Follow these Holiday Lighting Tips to best protect yourself and your home:

- ◆ Take out your strings of light, and carefully untangle them.
- ◆ Verify that each string of lights carries the official Underwriter's Laboratories *UL label.
- ◆ Take time to inspect your lights before plugging them in. Check for cracks in cord insulation or socket. Look for places where the wires are bare or broken.
- ◆ Throw away suspect or damaged strings. Minor cracks can be temporarily repaired with electricians tape for indoor lights. Discard all damaged outdoor light strands.
- ◆ Plug safe-looking strings into an electrical wall socket for 15 minutes and check for signs of melting or smoking wires.
- ◆ Verify that all strings designated for outdoor use are weatherproofed lights and wires. If an extension cord is needed, wrap the connection juncture tightly with electrical tape and keep suspended off the ground.
- ◆ Do not overload wall sockets. Be aware of power drains from extra appliances on common circuits. Use different sockets around the house to plug in multiple lights to balance the load.
- ◆ Set lights to a timer system so that they turn on and off, or be certain to shut off lights when you are asleep or not at home. Limit continuous usage of lights to avoid overheating.
- ◆ Keep your Christmas tree well watered and fresh. Test the needles to make sure they are elastic and not dried out and brittle.
- ◆ Hang lights and lamps so that they are not in contact with branches, paper, ornaments, decorations, or other flammable items.

CHRISTMAS PUNCH

A delicious punch recommended by Santa!

- ◆ 1 quart pineapple juice
- ◆ 1 pkg (2 qt) lime Kool-aid
- ◆ 1 qt lime sherbet
- ◆ 2 qts ginger ale

Mix Kool-aid in punch bowl. Add pineapple juice. Just before serving, add sherbet by spoonfuls. Add ginger ale. For red punch, use raspberry Kool-aid and sherbet.

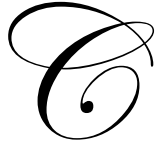


BRAIN TEASERS

1. What do you get when a cat walks along the beach?
2. What do you call a polar bear wearing ear muffs?

Be sure to look for the answers to these riddles elsewhere in this issue





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TIP'S FROM THE PROFESSIONALS - STEVE'S HIGHLIGHTS

How to winterize your lawnmower

The last of your autumn leaves have been raked, but there's one last important chore to do - put your lawn mower to bed. Neglecting to empty the gas tank and perform other end-of-season care can shorten your mower's life considerably, and can lead to costly repairs.

Things You'll Need:

- ◆ Penetrating Oil
- ◆ Gardening Gloves
- ◆ Motor Oil
- ◆ Scrub Brushes
- ◆ Steel Wool



- ◆ Empty the fuel tank. The easiest way to do this is simply to start the mower and leave it running until it runs out of gas. Leave it empty until you're ready to use it again next spring.
- ◆ Empty the oil tank, if your mower has one.
- ◆ Turn the mower on its side. Hose it down to soften dried grass and dirt; use a stick to scrape off any stubborn materials. Scrub with a soft brush and hot, soapy water to remove greasy matter. Rinse, and allow to dry thoroughly.
- ◆ Remove any rust by rubbing the affected area vigorously with a small piece of steel wool. (Be sure to wear gloves.)
- ◆ Remove the mower blade and either sharpen it yourself or take it to a professional sharpener, usually listed in the yellow pages under "Lawn Mowers - Sharpening and Repair."
- ◆ Clean or replace your air filter. These should be changed once or twice during the mowing season. If the filter is paper, replace it. If the filter is made of paper and foam, remove the foam part and wash it in warm, soapy water; let it dry thoroughly. If the filter is plastic foam, remove it and wash it in warm, soapy water; allow it to dry thoroughly; and once it's dry, work a tablespoon or two of clean motor oil evenly across and into the filter - just enough to lightly coat it.
- ◆ Refill the mower's oil tank with fresh oil. Leave the gas tank empty until you're ready to use the mower in the spring.
- ◆ Check your lawn mower maintenance manual for other suggested season's-end care.

Answers to Brain Teasers:
1. Sandy Claws
2. Anything you want, he can't hear you

All material contained within was written and compiled by the Colorado Home Builders team.