

# Remodeling Tips



**TheDoingsHinsdale**  
 #1 Pick "Readers' Choice Award"

**Professional Remodeler**  
 "Remodeler of the Year Award"

ARCHITECTS  
 & BUILDERS



## Buffer Zone

When you purchased your home, did you evaluate the layout carefully to make sure there was an adequate area for transitioning between the outside and inside? Few homeowners do. They may fall in love with a beautiful kitchen island, not realizing the island will soon be cluttered with backpacks and jackets if there is no specific place to hang them up.

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### Normandy Builders is now Normandy Design Build Remodeling



Back in 1979, Normandy founders Jack Steindl and Reg Marzec were searching for the right name for their new business. Starting up a Design/Build Remodeling firm, they needed a name that would help people understand the kind of work they would expect from Normandy. At that time, people thought of siding and window replacements when they thought of remodeling, not the additions, kitchens, second stories and major renovations that would

be the Normandy specialties. The description of "builder" seemed to help people understand their focus, and so Normandy Builders was born.

Over the years, homeowners became more savvy and educated and the term remodeling became much more widely understood. While the "Normandy Builders" name has served us well for over 32 years, we feel that changing our name to Normandy Design Build Remodeling does a better job of explaining the services that Normandy provides. While our name may change, you can rest assured that we'll always be the same Normandy, with the same owners, amazing designers, skilled tradesmen, and satisfied customers. ■

# Buffer Zone

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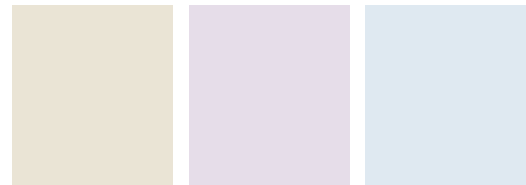
Photo: Courtesy of Diamond Cabinets (www.diamondcabinets.com)

When the design of your home's entrance leads directly from the outside or from the garage into your kitchen, scenarios like this are bound to happen.

The solution is to create a mudroom— basically a buffer zone for all the miscellaneous items and activities you would like to keep out of the kitchen and the rest of the house. The first step is to analyze your lifestyle and determine what you expect your mudroom to do for you: it can serve a variety of purposes, from laundry room, to sports locker, to pet palace. Here are some possibilities to consider:

- ▣ Provide storage for items you only use outside your home, such as umbrellas, keys, boots and sports equipment. Use a combination of lockers, cubbies, cabinets, baskets and hooks to accommodate an assortment of different items.
- ▣ Furnish built-in seating or a bench for ease in removing shoes or boots.
- ▣ Include a docking station for recharging cell phones, tablets and MP3 players.
- ▣ Install a sink or a small shower where muddy paws or soccer cleats may be hosed off.

- ▣ Create a laundry center with washer and dryer so that soiled clothing need not be brought into the home.
- ▣ Store your cleaning supplies and vacuum cleaner in a locked cabinet in the mudroom where they will be out of the way, yet handy when needed.
- ▣ Set aside a portion of the mudroom for your pets' food dishes and supplies.
- ▣ Locate your recycling center in the mudroom. It can be a more convenient place than your kitchen to store the bins and sort your recyclables.
- ▣ Select a durable, low-maintenance product for your mudroom floor. The dirt and water that make their way into your home can damage wood and laminate floors. Good choices for flooring are porcelain tile, linoleum or concrete with a texture that provides grip.
- ▣ Incorporate sufficient lighting to illuminate your tasks, while making use of windows or skylights to bring in natural light.



## DECIBEL

Zephyr has introduced some incredible new technology in their Next Generation Europa Collection of range hoods. These hoods are equipped with Zephyr's new DCBL (pronounced DeCiBel) Suppression System that includes: a direct current brushless motor, Bloom HD LED bulbs and a sophisticated, onboard computer system.

According to the company, DCBL benefits homeowners several ways:

- **More Powerful** – Provides 30 percent more CFMs (cubic feet per minute) at working speed levels, where it really matters most.

## LEVELS

- **Increased Energy Efficiency** – Reduces a range hood's energy consumption by up to 77 percent versus similar range hoods.
- **Ultra-Quiet** – Reduces sound 77 percent to nearly inaudible levels, affording tranquility to the kitchen.
- **LED Technology** – Distributes light evenly over cook-top; dimmable to set the mood. LED bulbs come with a 25,000-hour life.



Photo: Courtesy of Zephyr (www.zephyronline.com)



Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? Here is one to consider: According to the Home Safety Council, the top three home-related injuries resulting in medical visits and even deaths every year are: #1) falls, #2) poisonings, and #3) fires and burns. Many of these accidents happen in the bathroom. Why not resolve in 2012 to complete home updates that will help keep you and your loved ones safe while in the bathroom?

### Fight Against Falls

Did you know that a person who lives to be 75 years old will have spent an average of 1.5 years in the bathroom? That's why it is essential that this highly-used room be as safe as possible. Grab bars are an easy and effective solution for avoiding falls, and they no longer need to have an institutional appearance.

A comfort height toilet offers a toilet seat at the same height as a standard chair, ensuring maximum comfort and ease when you are sitting down or standing up.

An LED light-sensor nightlight in the bathroom—or in the hall outside the bathroom—provides a well-lit path for nighttime visits to the restroom. The nightlight automatically turns on at night and off during the day. The illumination will help you avoid any potential tripping hazards in your path.



### Prevent Poisoning

More than 2 million poisonings are reported to poison control centers each year—with the highest rates among children under age five. To prevent these poisonings, keep all cleaners and medications in their original containers with labels to ensure they are used properly and not mistaken for another product.

Make sure all poisonous items and medications are locked up and out of reach of children. This can be as easy as adding child-proof locks on the cabinets where your cleaners are stored and installing a medicine cabinet with a built-in lock box for added safety.



### Banish Burns

Although 93 percent of adults report functioning smoke alarms in their homes, some burns occur without any smoke! In fact, more than 112,000 emergency room visits occur each year due to hot tap water scald burns. To prevent these burns, turn down your water heater to 120 degrees and install an anti-scald regulator fixture in the shower, tub and vanity sink.

Finally, never leave potential fire hazards, such as space heaters, candles, or curling irons unattended. Replace lit candles with battery-powered "flameless" candles and put your curling or flat iron in a protective case when finished for added precaution. ■

# Renovations with NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Normandy Design team has found 2011 to be a year of recognition and accomplishment. Having collectively won 10 National Design Awards this year alone, we're proud to share with you some of the beautiful projects that have gained this national attention. As always, we offer our deepest thanks to our wonderful clients who share in the journey of inspiration and creativity to bring these award winning spaces to reality.



Located in a historic neighborhood in La Grange, this residence is quietly nestled into the fabric of the local Victorian and Prairie architecture. Built in the 1850's with a storied past, this home was in need of restoration and updating to bring it to its original glory while adding some welcome 21st century conveniences.

## After Photos:



Normandy Designer Troy Pavelka took painstaking steps to ensure that the remarkable details that made this home unique extended throughout the addition. The new attached 2 car garage, mudroom, master suite and home office featured details such as custom replicated moldings, vintage door hinges and push button light switches, just to point out a few. The restoration of the home's original turret with a spectacular copper roof became the crowning jewel of this stately residence.



After raising a family and living in their River Forest home for nearly 30 years, these empty-nest homeowners decided to do something for themselves and create the kitchen of their dreams. They worked closely with Normandy Designer Leslie Lawrence to create a visually stunning kitchen that maximized every inch of available storage space.

The resulting award winning kitchen used cabinetry panels to conceal virtually all the appliances, and is filled with smart storage solutions including designated spaces



for platters, spices, and even bulky and infrequently used items. Beautiful glazed white cabinets, exotic granite countertops, and stained glass mosaic backsplash tile compliment each other perfectly to make this modest size kitchen really shine.



This traditional Tudor style home located in Glencoe desperately needed updating to better accommodate the lifestyle of a young and active family. The owners of this 1920's home sought to add additional living space on the first and second floors that would seamlessly blend with the existing historic architecture.

Normandy Designer Vince Weber developed the plans for an addition that stayed true to the home's original style, scale and proportion. The newly expanded kitchen, hearth room, mudroom, powder room, home office and second floor master suite brought 21st century amenities to this lovely vintage home. The result is an award winning addition that blends seamlessly with the home both inside and out. ■

