

Ask the Professionals

With home improvement being a popular hobby, a few tips couldn't hurt before you break out the tool belt. Check out this helpful advice offered up from some of our local home & garden professionals.

TRIAD ASSOCIATES

- ▶ The best way to keep concrete finishes clean is with plain water and a pressure washer. Do not use "degreaser" products, as they will erode the concrete. Paved finishes weather naturally; however, if cleaning is needed, have a professional do the job to prevent stone dust from washing away.
- ▶ To keep snow and ice at bay during the winter, remember that salt (sodium chloride) is an enemy of concrete. Salt decays concrete and will cause imbedded stone (aggregate) to pop out. One non-chlorine substitute that is safe for concrete is Superior Sno-n-Ice Melter with Meltium.

-John Merck, President, Triad Associates



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MONTAGE

- ▶ Contemporary furniture has been used in European homes for centuries. Old architecture and contemporary furniture marry like peanut butter and chocolate.... completely different but perfect together. Remember, the cleaner the furniture lines, the more visible the unique antique molding, original floors, doors, windows, etc.
- ▶ Throw out that old wooden armoire that is hiding your TV. Flat-screen TVs and multi-media components are here to stay. Look for clean wall units to house these components. Acerbis International's "New Concepts Media furniture" is a perfect choice. Offered in elegant wood or lacquer finishes, this system is designed specifically to "dress" the wall around the TV.
- ▶ More than just a bed? Don't overcrowd the bedroom with furniture. Consider a bed with hidden storage capabilities. Be discreet and stylish so that the upholstered headboard, frame, and eye-catching linens are the center of attention.

-Chris Bates and Liz Cingari, Montage

M O N T A G E

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LUX LIGHTING DESIGN, INC.

- ▶ Quality lighting design addresses every mood, action, safety concern, and required atmosphere in a space. Make sure to list every activity you plan for each room that will require specific lighting needs. This [process] allows you to get the most use out of each room. This is especially important in open floor-plans.
- ▶ Well-designed lighting control systems, with pre-set dimmers, can provide similar energy savings to the use of fluorescent lamps. Dimming extends average lamp (light bulb) life significantly, while decreasing the amount of energy consumed. The added benefit is the assortment of lighting scenes you can create in a space.
- ▶ Landscape lighting is an important part of a home's appeal. It is worth every dollar to purchase quality lighting products that will not corrode from harsh weather, cause dangerous glare, or be difficult to change light bulbs. Long-life light sources should be used for minimal maintenance and efficiency.

*-Doreen Le May Madden, President/Designer,
Lux Lighting Design*



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