

Talk of the Twin Cities

On the Town

October

Alice in Wonderland
10/23-11/8
Stages Theatre Company,
www.stagestheatre.org

HallZOOween Event
10/24, 10/25, & 10/31
Minnesota Zoo
www.mnzoo.com

Pumpkin Palooza Weekend
10/24 & 10/25
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
www.arboretum.umn.edu

The Scarlet Pimpernel
10/23 – 11/21
Bloomington Civic Center
www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.com

The Louvre and the Masterpiece
10/18-01/10
Minneapolis Institute of Arts
www.artsmia.org

November

Grease
11/18-11/22
Orpheum Theatre
www.hennepintheatretrust.org

A Christmas Carol
11/19-12/31
Guthrie Theatre
www.guthrietheater.org

Ice Skating at the Depot
11/25+
The Depot Minneapolis
www.thedepotminneapolis.com/icerink/

December

Hansel and Gretel, In the Heart of the Beast
12/05
Puppet & Mask Theatre
Orchestra Hall, Target FREE Family Concert,
www.minnesotaorchestra.org/target

Annual Landmark Center Holiday Bazaar
Saint Paul's Landmark Center, 12/03-12/05
www.landmarkcenter.org/events.html

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker
12/11 & 12/12
Orpheum Theatre
www.hennepintheatretrust.org

Christmas with Lorie Line – 20th Annv. Show
12/12 & 12/13
State Theatre
www.hennepintheatretrust.org

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RE/MAX
Results

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Shelf Life

If you've got stuff, then you need storage.

And when you've run out of closet space, shelves are a great way to get the storage you need and make use of the wall space you probably have plenty of. Choosing among the endless array of decorative and functional shelf options might seem like the hardest part. But hanging them can be tricky, too — it's not as easy as drilling holes. These helpful hints should keep you from running into problems.

Tool smart. For almost any shelving project you will need a pencil, a level, a tape measure, a screwdriver, a drill and a stud finder. It's also wise to have —and wear — protective safety glasses.

Weight watcher. Books weigh more than knickknacks. Be sure to keep this in mind as you purchase shelves; some kinds are sturdier than others. Also consider buying brackets to accommodate extra weight, if needed.

Anchors aweigh. Just putting a screw in the wall usually is not enough to properly mount a shelf. In most cases, you will need to use an anchor. There are different kinds of anchors for various wall materials;

the kind you use for drywall is different than the kind you use for concrete walls. Know what your walls are made of before you head to the store.

Space station. Make sure you allow enough space above each shelf so there's no height restriction on what you place on the shelves.

Ball game. After you've completed hanging your shelf, test it out by placing a tennis ball or a golf ball right in the middle. It should stay perfectly still.

Source: This Old House, DIY



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Great Building Material Choices to Consider

Concrete. Simple, clean, and durable, this material can be left rough or honed, stained a color, edged with another material, and sealed, although some scratches and cracking may be inevitable.

Quartz. Engineered or manmade quartz, plus epoxy resins, creates the material that's generically referred to as quartz. However, manufacturers also call it by other names: Cambria, Zodiaq, CaesarStone, and Silestone. Colors vary, but all are durable and heat resistant. Some designers like the consistency of its colors and patterns; others think such sameness looks unnatural and prefer the one-of-a-kind slabs of granite and marble. Price varies by the slab selected, but it can be more costly than a natural stone.

Bamboo. Eco-friendly, warm, and available in different hues, bamboo is a durable wood-like grass that can be used on any surface. It requires sealing. When it comes to price, top-notch bamboos rival high-quality granites.

Mosaic glass tiles. A hot contender for today's favorite material, these tiles are sustainable and available in a rainbow of colors, textures, and sizes. They can be mixed with metal, stone, and ceramic tiles for a rich textural display. The downside is price, which is comparable with or even greater than nice granite.

IceStone. Recycled glass is mixed with cement to create IceStone, a speckled surface that's chip- and burn-proof, although four times costlier than good granites.

Hardwood. Wood will always be a classic, but the specific species, colors, and widths come and go in popularity.

Cork. Though it may look soft, this flooring material wears like wood and can be dyed with vibrant reds, greens, blues. It's also affordable.

PaperStone. Durable and sustainable, PaperStone is made from layers of recycled paper in thicknesses of 3/4-inch to 1 1/4-inch, making it suitable for countertops. Edges can be varied. Price is comparable to lower-end granites.

Marble. Another natural material, marble's elegance comes from its classic simplicity, quiet color range, and subtle veining. Though durable, it's more porous than granite and requires periodic

sealings. Honing helps it withstand wear. Prices can be steep.

Granite. Like a black cocktail dress, granite will never go out of style, even if it is something that everybody owns. This natural material looks freshest when selected in a classic color or one of the newer but low-key variations such as sky pearl or black with gold or tan veining. Available in tiny mosaics, larger tiles, and slabs, its price depends on the thickness, edging, color, and finish. Prices have dropped due to competition.

Other Options to Consider. Though less popular, and on the pricey side, here are some other materials available:

- **Alkemi.** This recycled metal with a jewel-like look shimmers and is resistant to chipping.
- **Copper.** It offers an elegant sheen, but it can ding, so you may be safer using this material on walls rather than counters or floors.
- **Leather tiles.** Another green material, these tiles offer a rich dramatic look in a variety of skins such as ostrich and vibrant colors like orange.
- **Pyrolave.** A French-made glazed Volvic lava stone that's hard, heat resistant, and comes in vibrant tones can cost \$250 a square foot and require a seam because of its lengths.
- **Seeta.** Environmentally-friendly and made by Torzo Surfaces from sunflower seed hulls, this material is durable, green, 100-percent formaldehyde free, and available in multiple colors and patterns. It costs about the same as average-priced granite.

10 inexpensive ways to freshen up your home:



- 1 Buy new towels for the bathroom
- 2 Upgrade outdoor lighting
- 3 Install new doorknobs and cabinet handles
- 4 Make a centerpiece for your dining room table
- 5 Buy a new mailbox
- 6 Polish or replace your house numbers
- 7 Place fresh flowers or houseplants around the home
- 8 Buy color-coordinated pillows for the sofa and bed
- 9 Replace your worn doormat
- 10 Set out subtle potpourri or scented candles

Great Holiday Activities

When gearing up for the New Year, consider starting some new holiday traditions or some exciting activities to celebrate this special season:

- * Consider taking a family vacation to visit relatives. Share each other's holiday traditions and experience new activities and climates. Engaging in a fresh alternative to your holiday season can be fun and rewarding for the entire family.
- * Call a charitable organization and see how you and your family can get involved. As a family, go through your closets and the rest of your house to see what you no longer need. Check with local charities to find the most appropriate one for the various items you would like to donate. Many dry cleaners will clean coats, free of charge, to give to those in need.
- * This is an important time of the year. Our hectic lives often keep us too busy to focus on those things that are the most valuable. Make the commitment to enjoy all this season has to offer and approach it with a positive attitude. It is important to remember what we value the most, and it's the perfect time to create memories that will last a lifetime.

Shop, Play & See the Best of the Twin Cities

This seasons featured businesses:

▶ Leather Renditions

▶ W.A. Frost & Company

▶ Top Notch Tree Care

▶ Top Notch Tree Care

Go to www.yourpersonalconnection.com and check out the business connections section for a additional details and a full list of great resources.

Congratulations

New Clients

Jonathan & Melissa Maurer-Jones
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Adam & Alisa Keniger
Kirsten & Nate Slinde
Beth Parady
Kathleen & Georgia Finnegan
Kara Graney
Andy & Carolyn King
Thanasak & Patcharee Sueblinvong
Gayle Jonassen
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Nate & Kirsten Slinde

Referrals

Carrie Johanns
Kara Graney
Michele Campbell

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www.YourPersonalConnection.com
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new family members!



Fur, fin or
feathers
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welcomed
here in the
next issue!



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