

HANDY TIPS

from



Some water leaking or damage may seem inevitable during weeks of extreme rain, but it doesn't have to be. You can protect your home from water damage by making sure a few basic home items are in good condition:

- Gutters and downspouts should be not only clean, but also securely anchored and routed properly to assure water is flowing correctly off the roof and away from the home foundation.
- Shingles also should be secured and in good repair.
- Roof flashing that is old or knocked loose is one of the most common reasons for water leaking.
- Caulking around windows and doors should be replaced as needed where cracked or deteriorated.
- Wood siding should be painted as needed to help seal out water.

Of course some water damage may have nothing to do with weather but is still just as frustrating. Some things to check inside your home:

- Kitchen appliances such as dishwasher, refrigerator and sink. Loose hoses or caulking can cause small leaks that create big problems.
- Bathroom toilets, sinks, and showers. If you see any discoloration, or feel soft spots on the floor around the edges, you may have a leak. Check and repair plumbing and caulking.

KC Handyman Gift Certificates

are available now and make great gifts.

Call Eric at 515.981.9708 for more information.

DID YOU MISS THE JUNE NEWSLETTER?

[Click here](#)

to read about the latest in tabletop and surface trends, how to keep your tile looking great, and tips for summer home maintenance.

Home Tour September 20-21

Kaufman Construction will feature two home remodel projects in the upcoming Tour of Remodeled Homes, sponsored by the [Des Moines Homebuilders Association](http://www.DesMoinesHomebuildersAssociation.com), September 20-21 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Our project at 9816 Valdez in Urbandale features a kitchen and

family room makeover, and our project at 1001 Briar Ridge in West Des Moines features a whole-house remodel.

For tickets and a complete map of the Remodeled Home Tour, email info@desmoineshomebuilders.com or call 270-8500.

What Does it Mean

TO BE GREEN?

Updates and perspectives on architectural design and trends

By Devan Kaufman

Although "going green" has been a home construction and design trend for several years, many are still confused by the term "green." Here's a quick look at our perspective:

What does "green" mean?

Green building means using design, construction, and materials to help buildings use resources (such as energy and water) more efficiently, while reducing the building's impacts on human health and the environment. Green building is sometimes called sustainable design or green architecture.

Why is it important?

Too often, "green" is mistaken as a political or liberal term or interest. In fact, green building has many potential benefits, including lower operating costs, lower energy costs, improved health through improved indoor air

quality, and a lower impact on the environment.

How can homeowners get there?

Homeowners can start by understanding the basic concepts of green, then working with a DESIGN+BUILD contractor such as Kaufman Construction that can incorporate the design, construction, materials, and products (such as low-flow plumbing) into your building or remodeling plans.

Green is easy and smart

There are many simple ways to go green — whether it's choosing the right insulation, windows, lighting, or appliances; using recycled materials when appropriate; or building with materials that have fewer chemicals and so have less impact on the environment.

Each green effort you make means you help not only your own cost of running a home, but also our surroundings and quality of life. For more information, call 981-9352 or contact Devan@kaufmanconstruction.com.

ONE KEY ASPECT OF GREEN BUILDING IS TREATING THE WHOLE HOUSE AS A COMPLETE SYSTEM. SIMPLY ADDING A GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM IS NOT GREEN IF THE REST OF THE HOME IS INEFFICIENT.

PARTNER PROFILE Cenergy, LLC

A building and energy expert, [Cenergy, LLC](http://www.cenergy.com) is one of the experts Kaufman Construction works with that specializes in cost effective, energy-related services.

As certified HERS (Home Energy Rating System) Raters, the Cenergy staff is well-trained in diagnosing energy related



problems and recommending cost-effective solutions. Cenergy also offers ACCA Manual J8 load calculation services in residential Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, to help contractors choose appropriate equipment for new and existing homes.

One of the most valuable services offered by Cenergy is its home energy audit using the [HERS Index](http://www.HERSIndex.com). A typical analysis includes a test of the home duct system for leaks, testing heating and cooling performance and efficiency, and a carbon monoxide safety test.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT Meet John Hill

Job Title: Handyman.

Hometown: Churchville.

Years doing this type work: 24.

Most rewarding part of job: Satisfying clients with a job well done.

Most challenging part of job: Paperwork.

When I was in 6th grade, I wanted to be: A livestock farmer.

What I expect to be doing in 20 years: Cruising the country in my RV with my lovely wife.

Most memorable moment on the job: I was siding a house in Johnston years ago when a sudden storm forced us to scramble off of the

pump jacks and seek shelter in the window wells where we watched the wind/tornado tear the pump jacks off the wall and level the house being framed next door.

When I am not at work, I like to: Go camping in my 5th wheel with my wife.

The one tool/piece of equipment I can't be without: Cordless drill.

Biggest change in the construction business over the past 10 years: Cost of materials.



the ASK EXPERT

It would be great if we could add some green, energy-saving strategies to our home, but I've heard it's expensive. Is that true?

Answer: No, green building or remodeling doesn't have to be expensive or more costly.

First, discuss with your contractor your goals (lower energy costs, for instance), and ask for recommendations on how to achieve the goal. They will help you evaluate those things that impact energy costs — for instance, number and size of windows and doors, as well as roofing, siding, heating, cooling, plumbing, and appliances — to decide which strategies will fit into your budget.

Be wary of products that promise huge energy savings. The best way to get real improvement is to look at the whole house as a system and make adjustments throughout.

Do you have a home design or remodeling question, or a maintenance problem that's been nagging you for months?

Send your question to us at expert@kaufmanconstruction.com and we'll respond in an upcoming issue of our newsletter.