

HANDY TIPS from



Most leaks from **ICE DAMMING** cause small areas of drywall damage to ceilings or walls. This can occur over a long period of time with a small amount of water or it can happen quickly involving large volumes of water depending on the size of the ice dam, the roof structure, and the weather. Simply removing the ice dam is not a permanent fix to the problem, because roofing materials are not usually the cause of ice damming. Roof structure, attic ventilation, orientation to the sun, and flashing are most often the cause of ice damming leaks.

What can you do? Call a professional to investigate the ice dam/leaking issue while it is happening. Remove the ice from the roof to stop the water. Develop a plan with that professional that you can implement when the weather allows.

**Call 515.981.9708
for more information**

Visit us at Two Shows Next Month

Kaufman Construction will again participate in both the [Home & Garden](#) show and the [Home & Product Expo](#). Both are in Des Moines and both are in February.

The Home and Garden show, February 12-15 at the Iowa Events Center is a great place to see new ideas in construction design, remodeling, and gardening, and to meet with builders, contractors, and other local experts.

The Home & Product Expo, February 20-22 at the Knapp Varied Industries Building, is a

similar event but will focus more directly on building projects and new product ideas for your home.

LEARN THE BASICS AT RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION 101

Kaufman Construction will present a Residential Construction 101 seminar at 5 p.m. each day at the Home & Product Expo. You'll learn how to plan, help design your project, and work with a contractor or builder to ensure your project meets your needs and your budget.

Kaufman Construction Wins Award

Kaufman Construction has earned the 2008 Remodeler of the Year Award from the [Remodelers' Council](#) of the [Home Builders Association](#) of Greater Des Moines. The award is presented to one member of the Remodelers Council each year in recognition of the member's consistent contributions to the betterment of the remodeling industry. Award criteria include industry involvement and accomplishments (such as special projects, participation in ongoing education, professional awards earned, legislative activity, and leadership) as well as civic responsibility. [Kaufman Construction](#) also earned the award in 2005.

Devan Kaufman, founder of Kaufman Construction, currently is vice president of the Home Builders Association and is slated to become president in 2010. Kaufman is a Certified Graduate Remodeler ([CGR](#)) along with two other Kaufman Construction employees: Scott Spetman and Marc Black. Kaufman and Spetman also have earned the Consumer Aging in Place Specialist ([CAPS](#)) designation.

In addition to the 2008 Remodeler of the Year Award, Kaufman Construction won a 2008 [QRMaster Design](#) bronze award in the Exterior Facelift category, a QRMaster Design silver award in 2006 for a finished basement project, and a 2007 Chrysalis Award/Midwest Region for a finished basement.



IMAGINE YOUR HOME • Updates and perspectives on architectural design and trends • By Devan Kaufman

HOW TO FIND YOUR DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Winter months are the perfect time to begin working on the design of your home construction or remodeling project, because you'll have several months to do research, work with a contractor or builder, and make all the important decisions before the construction season begins in early spring.

Before you begin your research, it's important to [find a contractor](#) who has the expertise to help with the planning and design process. Expect to meet with them early on so he or she knows the basic scope of your project and can advise you on what kinds of major decisions will be involved.

For instance, if you are planning an exterior project, you will need to decide on basic style (contemporary or traditional, or a mix), as well as a variety of materials (type and color of siding, size and type of windows, number and finishes for lighting, etc.).

Similar decisions need to be made for interior projects. You'll need to consider the general style or feel you are seeking (modern, casual, formal, etc.); materials and colors for flooring, walls, and countertops; finishes for fixtures

The design phase tends to take longer than expected, so it's best to start early.

and lighting; and locations of outlets and light switches — just to name a few.

As long as you start early the research can done at your convenience. You'll find sources of inspiration in a variety of places:

- Your contractor or builder should be your primary source, if they are offering design services.
- Your neighborhood or city. Simply drive around and look at homes that catch your eye.
- Magazines and books are great sources. You don't need to purchase a whole library, just visit the library and check out what you need.
- The Internet, offers endless opportunities. Visit the [Kaufman Construction](#) website for ideas.
- You'll likely begin to feel overwhelmed at some point by

all the information and photos. That means its time to put everything away for a week so you can bring it back out with fresh eyes.

- If your contractor or builder is not providing design services, make sure you are keeping in regular contact with them to get his or her input about which design aspects would work best for your project. For instance, they have the expertise to know which types of siding work best in your climate, or which countertop surface will be contemporary looking but low maintenance.

Your contractor or builder will also be doing research, as well as continuing with the general design phase, including preliminary architectural drawings. The drawings will be finished when you make final decisions on materials and other details for the project, which also will allow the contractor to present you with a project budget.

For more ideas to help you get started on your project, contact Kaufman Construction or visit [www.kaufmanconstruction.com](#).

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT Meet Steve Lamberti

Hometown: Pleasant Hill

Job title: Woodworker and Estimator.

Job responsibilities: Bidding for KC Handyman and carpentry for Kaufman Construction.

Specialty: Furniture making and cabinet building.

Most rewarding part of job: The finished product.

Most challenging part of job: QuickBooks.

When I was in 6th grade, I wanted to be: Baseball player.

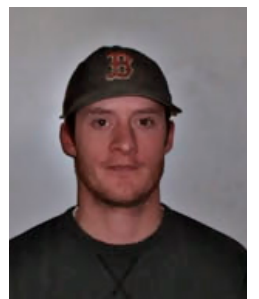
What I expect to be doing in 20 years: Building custom furniture.

Most memorable moment on the job: Finishing my first lead job at Sweeney's.

When I am not at work, I like to: Build rocking chairs.

The one tool/piece of equipment I can't be without: Bandsaw

Biggest change in the construction business over the past 10 years: The technology and science of building.



the ASK EXPERT

How do I know what kind of insulation is best for my home?

The "best" insulation depends on how much you need, thickness needed, where it is needed, and how easy it is to reach the installation location, as well as the availability and price of the insulation. You also should consider the R-value, which is a good indication of the potential benefit of an insulation system. However, to get the full benefit of the insulation system, proper installation is crucial and sealing the building envelope is as much or more important than the R-value of the system. Using an energy rater such as [Cenergy](#) to run calculations before you make your selection, as well as to test air sealing after the installation, can be very beneficial when selecting insulation.

[Insulation types](#) include blankets (in the form of batts or rolls), blown-in loose-fill, spray foam, rigid insulation, or reflective insulation. The different forms can be batted together. Overall effectiveness will depend upon what kind and how much is used, and how it is installed. Visit with your contractor or the Department of Energy for advice and guidance.