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Experience You Can Trust

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August is a popular time to get work done around the house. Perhaps you're planning to do some repairs or get started on a decorating or renovation project and need a contractor, interior designer, cleaner, or other professional to help.

If so, give me a call.

Through my connections in the local "home industry", I may know reputable professionals I can recommend.

In fact, making recommendations is just one of the ways I continue to help my clients in between transactions. It's part of my mission to be the kind of real estate agent you'd like to work with again, and refer to others.

So, don't be shy about contacting me if you need recommendations or have questions.

I'm always delighted to hear from you.

Four Signs You've Outgrown Your Current Home

It's not uncommon for couples with growing families to trade in their compact cars for something roomier, like a mini-van. The same thing happens with homes. Sometimes families simply outgrow them.



How can you tell if that's happening with your property? Here are some sure-fire signs:

1. **You need more space.**

This is the most common reason people upgrade to a new home. They need more room. For any number of reasons, you might want an extra bedroom, a larger living room, a bigger backyard, or a more spacious kitchen. Rather than put up with feeling cramped, consider exploring the extra space a new home can provide.

2. **A renovation won't fix it.**

Sometimes, when a property doesn't fit its owners' needs anymore, they consider a renovation. For example, if they need more space for a home office, they convert a spare room. However, a renovation doesn't always fix the problem. For example, building a double, rather than single driveway and garage, may not be possible given the constraints of your property. Only a new home can solve that problem.

3. **You're interested in a new neighborhood.**

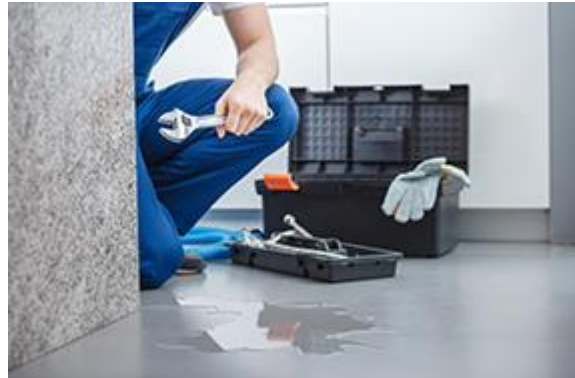
The neighborhood may have been perfect for you at one time. But needs evolve. You may now be looking for something the area doesn't provide - like closer access to a recreational activity your family enjoys, or a more convenient commute to work. If that's the case, it might be time to look at other neighborhoods you'd like to consider, and see what types of homes are currently available there.

4. **It's time for a change.**

Sometimes you simply feel it's time for a change. There's nothing wrong with that. Don't feel you need a practical reason to sell and find a new home. If this feels like the right time for you and your family to move, go for it.

How To Minimize Water Damage

It's amazing how much damage water can cause. Just two gallons of water from a burst pipe or overflowing toilet can wreak havoc throughout your home and necessitate thousands of dollars in repairs. Ouch!



What should you do at the first sign of water leakage?

First, stop the source. Turn off the nearest water valve. If you can't find it, turn off the main water valve to your home.

Next, do everything you can to soak up as much water as possible. If necessary, lift carpeting. Pay particular attention to water settling next to walls or inside ductwork. Get these areas dry as quickly as possible.

Contain the water. This is important. Do your best to prevent water from infiltrating other rooms to prevent further damage.

Once the area is as dry as possible, run fans in the room along with a good dehumidifier - for at least a full day - to draw in the remaining moisture.

If, despite your best efforts, you suspect that moisture remains inside the walls, floors or ceilings, call in the professionals. There are many companies that specialize in emergency water damage control. The key is to prevent the possibility that remaining moisture will provide an environment for mold to grow.

Also, consider contacting your insurance company. They're as motivated as you are to reduce the damage.

Gentle Ways to Deal with Insects in the Home

A growing number of homeowners are uncomfortable using traditional pesticides for a variety of reasons, including health and environmental concerns. If you're among them, here are some natural ways to deal with insects in your home:



- Use a mixture of unsweetened lemon juice and water to deter spiders. Spray the solution near doorways and window sills where these arachnoids can enter.
- Combine an equal mixture of vinegar and water to create an effective deterrent for a variety of crawling insects, particularly ants. Spray the solution on floors and countertops that are close to these creatures' food sources.
- Believe it or not, invest in a fake wasp nest (which you can purchase at your local home improvement store) to deter real wasps from building a nest on your property.
- Experts recommend that you test any surface spray you plan to use to make sure it doesn't stain or otherwise harm the surface.

Notable, Quotable, Quotes!



“Be a good listener. Your ears will never get you in trouble.”

Frank Tyger

“Never regret. If it’s good, it’s wonderful. If it’s bad, it’s experience.”

Victoria Holt

“The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live.”

Flora Whittemore

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