

DESIGN & REMODELING *trends*

Who to Hire?

Professional Remodelers versus New Construction Builders

We've heard a lot of advice on the advantages of choosing a new home builder for your remodeling project - from cost savings to quality construction. But there are some important reasons why you should choose a professional remodeler for renovation projects.

New home builders think of walls as places to lay wiring, vents, pipes and other essential elements. But professional remodelers are acutely aware of the peculiar variations behind those walls that were built 3 or 300 years ago.

You might be thinking, "If they're a good builder they should be able to handle it." But building techniques and products have changed drastically over the past 10 years alone, and most new construction builders wouldn't know what they were looking at if they started to change the structural walls and foundation of an older home.

Professional remodelers like BRHI have seen it all because that's what we do. From on the job experience to the training it takes to acquire special designations like CGR (Certified Graduate Remodeler), GMB (Graduate Master Builder), and CAPS (Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist), professional remodelers have expertise unique to navigating centuries of building codes and construction.

It's not all about technical expertise, though. New home builders work with clients, and the good ones provide excellent customer service, but client interactions are

limited to phone calls, emails and the occasional stop-by. But professional remodelers understand they're working in a functioning household, and that they'll be a part of the family's daily life for the duration of the project.

We ask lifestyle questions that will make the project as easy as possible for the family, like: What are the best times of day for work? How should we interact with your pets? Are there family routines we should be aware of?

Professional remodelers also know to be mindful of noise and dust, keeping their language, music and workspace clean to provide the safest and best experience possible.

Can a new home builder do your home renovation project? Sure. But ask yourself why they would be taking on remodeling in the first place. They're specialty is new construction, not remodeling. As professional remodelers, we build long term relationships with our clients and their homes - it's the reason why the majority of our clients do business with us over and over, as well as refer us to their family and friends.

Professional remodelers bring the kind of specific expertise to make your project as easy and predictable as possible.

But don't take our word for it - check out our client's words at www.blueridgehi.com/about-us/testimonials.

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

Aging in Place - Stair lifts
All About the Home Show

Page 3

Employee Spotlight
Quick Tips for Spring Chores
Find Us on Facebook

Page 4

Project Files:
The Price Family





NRVHBA HomeExpo

all about the home expo

aging-in- place stair lifts

Many aging-in-place modifications are straightforward enough, like bathroom grab bars and remote-controlled doors. Stairways, though, can be daunting for those with mobility issues from failing knees to wheelchair use.

Fortunately, stair lifts are an increasingly affordable solution for navigating between floors. Forget the slow, noisy monstrosities you've seen on movies. Today's stair lifts are quiet, safe and come in a variety of styles so that they can blend into your décor and accommodate every type of stairway, even curved or spiral stairs.

Are your stairs a showpiece in your home? We can install a sturdy, reliable stair lift with as little damage as wood putty can remedy.

To learn more about stair lifts and other Aging-In-Place options, call us today or attend our How-To Clinic, "How can I make my home more accessible as I age?" on Saturday, March 12, at 2 p.m. the NRVHBA Home Expo.

The New River Valley Home Builders Association Home Expo is almost upon us! On March 11, 12 and 13, more than a hundred home services businesses will fill the Christiansburg Recreation Center for a weekend of How-To Clinics, informational booths, door prizes and more.

We'll be there, too, with two booths and three How-To Clinics for you to visit!

Our main booth will feature our Advantage Remodeling System. Stop by to find out about the 12-step system we follow from first contact to follow-up on all of our remodeling projects to ensure that each and every client get the service, attention and quality workmanship they deserve.

Stop by our secondary booth to learn more about our areas of expertise, from our general remodeling offerings to our Certified Aging-In-Place services. None of us are getting younger, but with thoughtful home modifications, aging doesn't mean having to leave the home you love.

If you'd like to learn even more about Aging-In-Place options, join our How-To Clinic on Saturday at 2 p.m., "How can I make my home more accessible as I age?" We'll address everything from bathroom grab bars to stair lifts and many options between.

Also on Saturday at will be our How-To Clinics, "How to Choose a Contractor?" at 11 a.m. and "How does the new EPA lead paint rule affect me?" at 5 p.m. Remodeling projects are challenging enough for homeowners; these clinics will help demystify the selection process and regulations so that you can focus on making decisions about the aesthetics and functionality that will give you the home of your dreams.

Plus we have an awesome Home Expo Week Giveaway on Facebook, where we'll give away a different gift Monday through Friday the week of the Expo. We've picked five of our favorite things and are giving one away each day!

Expo Details

March 11: 4 pm - 8 pm
March 12: 9 am - 8 pm
March 13: 12 pm - 5 pm

Christiansburg Rec Center
Tickets: \$4
(15 and under free)

Find out about our Home Expo Week Giveaway
& our How-To Clinics on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/blueridgehomeimprovement

For more information, contact BRHI at 540.951.3505 or info@blueridgehi.com.

employee *spotlight* **John Risch**



Twenty-two years ago, John Risch visited Southwest Virginia and found the home he didn't know he was looking for. With the beautiful landscapes, abundant access to fishing and hiking and serene community, it was the perfect spot for this self-taught carpenter.

These days, John is a Lead Carpenter for BRHI, guiding our teams with his quiet efficiency and attention to detail. When he's not on the job, he still enjoys hiking on the Blue Ridge Parkway, catch-and-release fishing in a friend's pond, and acting as brute labor in the vegetable garden he shares with his wife of five months, Kelly.

"I hate these things," John said, referring to the spotlight being placed on him. A modest and reserved man, John was just ready to get back to work.

QUICK tips for spring chores

The recent warm days are a reminder of spring just around the corner, and with it spring home maintenance tasks. What can you do and what should you hire a professional to do? Find out below!

DIY:

Visually inspect the outside of your home for loose gutters, damaged shingles or roofing, and cracks or damage in your foundation and chimney.

Replace internal air filters.

Vacuum the coils on your refrigerator.

Clean the vent over your stove.

Patch any damaged caulking around sinks, tubs and toilets.

For the Pros:

Have a qualified heating and cooling contractor clean and service your outside air conditioning unit for improved efficiency.

Have a roofer inspect the flashing around vents, skylights and chimneys.

Have your chimney inspected by a certified professional.

Check for frozen pipe damage by turning on your outside spigot and holding your thumb over the spout. If you can stop the flow of water, there is likely damage to a pipe inside your home, requiring the attention of a professional plumber.

If you're noticing standing water near your home, contact a professional experience in positive drainage solutions.

Once you've finished with those chores, grab a glass of tea and enjoy a book on your porch. You've earned it!

Find us on Facebook!

You've heard a lot about Facebook – maybe you even have a profile to keep up with your friends and family. But did you know that BRHI also has a page?

Join our page today to get a peek behind the scenes at BRHI. From home care tips to industry information, happenings around Southwest Virginia to photos of our projects, you'll find the resources and fun you're looking for on our Facebook page.

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NEWSLETTER OF:



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PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS



PROJECT FILES

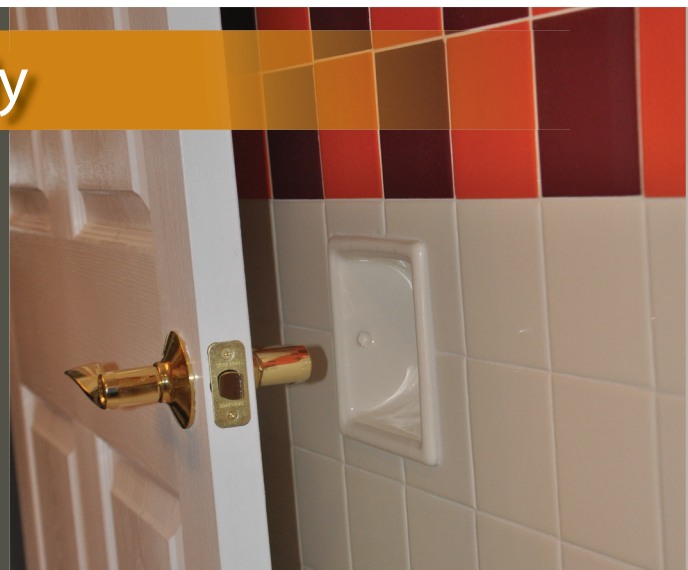
The Price Family

PROBLEM:

With the doorknob, the door to the Price Family's bathroom was just inches too narrow for their son's wheelchair to pass through easily.

SOLUTION:

Create a recess in the wall for the doorknob.



WHAT WE DID:

By inseting a ceramic toilet paper holder into the wall, the doorknob tucks away giving two additional inches of space in the doorway without losing the clean, tiled aesthetic. In addition to other changes to the bathroom, including grab bars and an open shower space with seating, the bathroom has become accessible and easy-to-navigate.

