

DESIGN & REMODELING

trends



IN THIS ISSUE

BRHI Receives National Recognition - page 1

Lead Safety 101 - page 2

Meet Our Employee of the Quarter - page 3

Is Your Home Friendly to Your Future Needs? Find out with our CAPS Checklist - page 3

Project Files: Making a Home Accessible - page 4

Blue Ridge Home Improvement was nationally recognized as the April 2010 Remodeler of the Month by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

This achievement is a testament to BRHI's over 30 years of success and solidifies their reputation as the New River Valley's most trusted and respected remodeling contractor.

In order to win this honor, BRHI was selected through a stringent judging process of National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Remodelers leadership and staff.

Tim Lawrence, president and remodeling consultant for BRHI, started his business as a small home repair and maintenance contractor. From the very beginning, Lawrence operated his business by the principles of honesty, trust, reliability, quality workmanship and communication.

"When I started this business, my dad told me 'always be honest with people, do good work, and you'll always have plenty to do,'" Lawrence said.

Over thirty years later, Lawrence still operates his business by those same values, but has learned to combine those traditional principles with new innovation to grow with the industry.

"What sets us apart from other remodelers is our dedication to the profession," Lawrence said. "We ensure our staff and subcontractors are trained in traditional principles, which translates into quality work and excellent customer service. This is coupled with a desire to grow with the industry and our clients' needs."

BRHI is dedicated to their community and local home builders association through scholarship donations for high school seniors entering the construction industry, monthly meetings and staff volunteerism at events like the annual Home Expo. Lawrence has served on the Board of Directors for the past ten years, and currently serves as chair for the Finance and Home Expo committees.

"This is a great opportunity to showcase a remodeler who has made great accomplishments and deserves recognition for their efforts," NAHB Chairman Bob Jones said. "We are proud to award Blue Ridge Home Improvement with this honor."

101 Lead Safety 101:

How the new EPA rule affects YOU



of lead exposure

Effects of lead on children:

- Damage to the brain & nervous system
- Behavior & learning problems such as hyperactivity & difficulty reading
- Slowed growth
- Hearing problems
- Headaches
- Damage can be irreversible

Lead is also harmful to adults:

- Reproductive problems for both men & women
- Nerve disorders
- Memory & concentration problems
- Muscle & joint pain
- Can cause high blood pressure & hypertension
- Physical fatigue

Most common sources of lead poisoning:

- Deteriorating lead-based paint
- Lead contaminated dust
- Lead contaminated residential soil

People can get lead in their system if they:

- Ingest lead after touching objects covered with lead dust
- Eat paint chips or soil that contains lead
- Breathe in lead dust, especially during renovations that disturb painted surfaces

Did you know that childhood lead poisoning is a major health problem in the U.S.?

Every year, millions of children are exposed to dangerous amounts of lead which, if ingested or inhaled, can lead to serious developmental problems.



What's the deal with the new EPA Lead-Safe rule?

A new federal rule, developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to help renovators contain hazardous lead dust, went into effect on April 22, 2010. The new rule requires anyone who disturbs lead paint in homes built before 1978 to acquire training and certification for lead-safe work practices.

EPA proposed the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule, which requires contractors to be trained and certified in lead-safe work practices, in 2006. In 2008, the EPA finalized the rule and set April 22, 2010 as the implementation date. To date, EPA has certified 204 training providers who have conducted more than 6,900 courses, training an estimated 160,000 people in the construction and remodeling industries to use lead-safe work practices.

Why is lead more dangerous to children?

- Babies and young children often put their hands and other objects in their mouths, meaning they are at a higher risk of ingesting lead dust
- Children's growing bodies absorb more lead
- Children's brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to damaging effects of lead poison

What are Lead-Safe work practices?

- Contain the work area so that dust and debris doesn't escape. Warning signs should be put up and heavy-duty plastic and tape should be used to seal off doors and heating and cooling system vents and to cover the floors and any furniture that cannot be moved.
- Minimize dust. There is no way to eliminate dust, but some paint removal methods create less dust than others. For example, using water to mist areas before sanding or scraping.
- Clean up thoroughly. When all the work is done, the area should be cleaned up using special cleaning methods. These include using a HEPA vacuum to clean up dust and debris on all surfaces, followed by wet mopping with plenty of water.

To learn more about the new EPA Lead-Safe Rule and find a list of certified contractors in your area, visit www.epa.gov/lead.



employee spotlight

Leon Caldwell



Ten years ago, Leon Caldwell began working as a carpenter for BRHI. With over 30 years of experience as a self-taught carpenter, he has become a lead carpenter and an integral member of the BRHI team.

This Blacksburg native began working as a carpenter for a commercial construction company in Salem shortly after graduating from Floyd County High School in 1982. After 10 years with the company, Leon decided to open his own residential construction company in Floyd. Leon says the keys to success are hard work and enjoying what you do.

He says his favorite thing about working with BRHI is the teamwork.

Something everyone should know about Leon is he has been married for 21 years and has two wonderful teenage kids. He also enjoys gardening and spending time in the family orchard.

Leon's goals are to hone his carpentry skills and keep up with the changing industry.

Is your home ready for a *lifetime*?

find out with our **CAPS Checklist:**

- A master bedroom and bath on the main level
- Lever-style door handles
- An open floor plan, especially in the kitchen, bath and living areas
- No change in levels on the main floor
- A low or no-threshold entrance to the main level with a covered entrance
- Grab bars and hand holds in bathing areas
- Bright lighting in all areas
- A low maintenance exterior
- Non-slip flooring at the main entryway
- Handrails at all steps



Fun FACTS

Did you know,
the BRHI team has combined over
215 years
of construction experience



May is National Remodeling Month, which means remodeling is on the brain! But not all remodeling projects are equal. We have three simple ways to help you add the most value to your home with your next project.

1 Home Office Remodel. State-of-the-art office spaces are a great way to increase your home's value and appeal to potential buyers.

2 Roof Replacement. The roof is one of the first impressions people have of a home. Replacing an old roof can make a home look like new again, and you can add character with different colors and architectural styles.

3 Window Replacement. Thirty percent of a home's energy is lost through its windows. Replacing old windows with energy-efficient ones saves you money on utility costs and increases the value to your home.

Don't forget, the tax credit of up to \$1,500 has been extended through the end of 2010.

HELLO
my name is
Leon
Lead Carpenter

DESIGN & REMODELING

trends

VOLUME 20 NO 2 - Spring 2010

NEWSLETTER OF:



P.O. BOX 903
BLACKSBURG, VA 24063
540.951.3505
www.blueridgehi.com

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS



PROJECT FILES

PROBLEM:

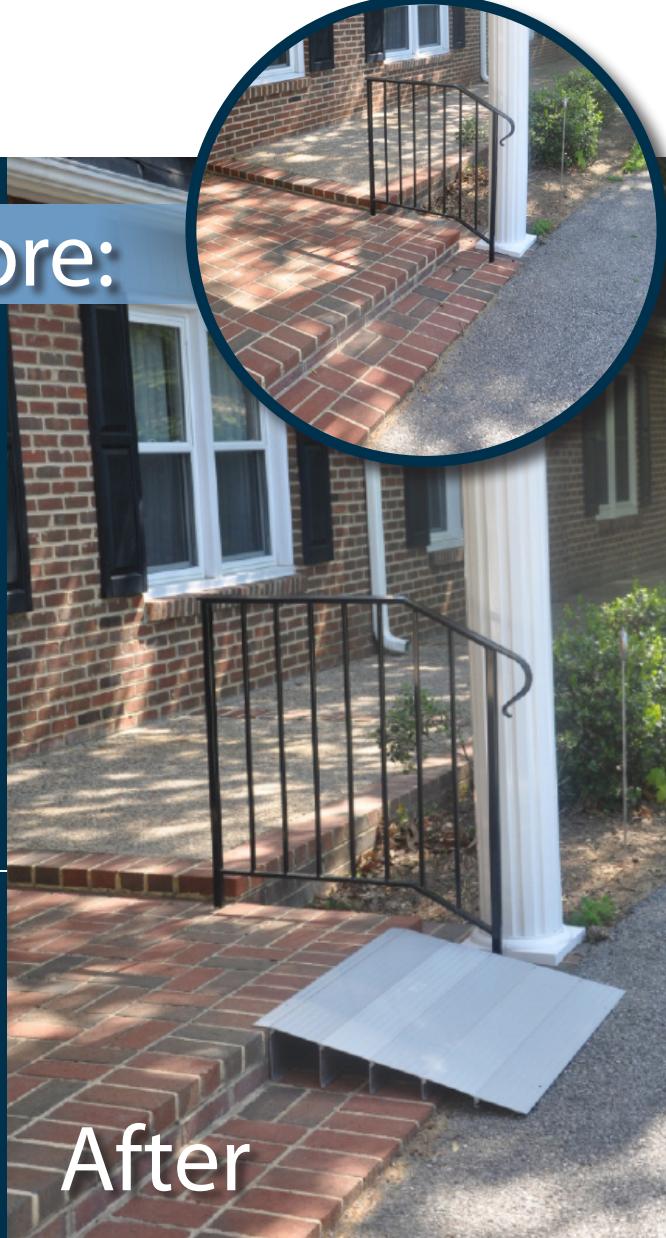
Not being able to safely access your home due to an elevated threshold or step

SOLUTION:

Install a threshold ramp

- Aluminum threshold ramps are simple to install and can be removed easily
- They come in multiple sizes to fit a variety of threshold heights
- Light-weight, yet durable and will not rust
- Weight capacity of 600 pounds
- Help homeowners and guests who use scooters, wheelchairs, carriages and other wheeled devices access a raised area

Before:



After