The World-Spectator - Moosomin, Sask

Monday, May 3, 2021



Wood decks: durable and affordable

Among all of the floor-ing options available on the market for decks, terraces and patios, treated lumber is undeniably one of the more popular choic-es, mainly for its reason-able cost and long lifespan.

Often made from pine or spruce, these pressure-treated wooden planks spruce, these pressure-treated wooden planks are equally suitable for ground-level patios and el-evated balconies. Are you looking to complement your yard with a beauti-

for



<u>Moosomin, SK</u>



ful terrace? Treated wood proof sealant available at might be exactly the building material you're looking

Easy to cut, carve and paint, treated lumber is the perfect choice of material for a terrace that is unique in design and resistant to insects and rot. In addition to its superior resistance, it's also very easy to work with. For example, to pre-serve the natural beauty of the surface, you can stain or paint the wood in a colour of your choosing. Further-more, to ensure your deck remains in prime condition for years to come, you can apply a transparent, water-

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any hardware store. Contrary to popular be-lief, wood is actually one of the more eco-friendly options available for deck flooring. Given their excep-tional durability, wooden planks limit the number of trees chopped down each year. Additionally, wood is a reusable and biodegradable material that is highly regulated by environmental agencies worldwide. To build a timeless wooden deck of the highest quality, entrust your project to a professional carpenter!







Preparing WOOD for finishing

wood.

Wood is one of the most popular materials for outdoor projects, thanks to its attractive appearance, durability and versatility. But you also have to know how to optimize its qualities with the proper finish. However, before treating wood, the surface has to be properly prepared, with the exception of very new virgin wood that hasn't yet been exposed to the elements. Here is an overview of this crucial step in any wood finishing project.

PRE-TREATED SURFACES

If the surface in question has already been stained, it will have to be stripped before proceeding further. Use a cleaner specifically designed for outdoor use, as it will be water-based and biodegradable. How-

ever, be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions, as this kind of product can come in several different concentrations and often needs to be diluted. After applying the product evenly, wait 15 minutes and then clean the wood with either a pressure washer or a

Staining exterior wood? Have you prepared the surface properly?



good old scrubbing brush and some water.

Wood darkens quickly, depending on

the weather and presence of mildew. That

means even if the surface you want to treat

has never been stained, you'll still need to

wash it to ensure that the finishing product

adheres properly. It's okay to wash it with a

pressure washer, but be very careful not to damage the wood by applying too much pressure. There are also a variety of wood §

cleaners available in stores; look for one that

contains oxalic acid, the bleach of choice for

And now you can move on to the finishing 3

GREYING VIRGIN WOOD

Spotlight on outdoor lighting

Do you long to admire your garden day and night? You can! Highlight your landscaping with strategically placed light fixtures throughout your yard. Once lit, your plants, your pathways and even your pool will give your garden a magical feel after sundown.

A well-integrated landscape lighting system will allow you to create the atmosphere you desire, whether you wish to relax in a peaceful oasis, entertain in an enchanting atmosphere or impress your guests with the fanciest of backyards.

A few tips Lighting vertical surfaces such as tall trees or fences will make your yard seem

bigger. Combine function and form by lighting up your pathways, entrance and outdoor kitchen. Don't overdo it, though: the goal is to be able to move around safely, not to see as if it were daylight

see as if it were daylight. Finally, shine the spotlight on the main features of your landscaping. You could use projectors to make your pool or water fountain shimmer. Other options include illuminating flowerbeds, shrubs or your deck.

Call in the pros to design an outdoor lighting system that's as functional as it is beautiful.

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11

The World-Spectator - Moosomin. Sask.

Monday, May 3, 2021



Four unique ways to use tree stumps

Gone are the days of old tree stumps rotting away in the middle of the garden. Here are four unique ways to incorporate stumps in your landscaping. 1. As a pedestal Thanks to their flat sur-

face, tree stumps make perfect pedestals. Use your stump as a base for a bird feeder, a bonsai tree, a stat-ue, a floral arrangement

ue, a floral arrangement or even a fountain. As a finishing touch, surround the stump with flowers or decorative stones. 2. As lighting Hollow stumps are great for hiding outdoor lighting in plain sight. Drill holes in the wood's surface or cut slats in the sides to let the light shine through. Use your stumps to subtly illuyour stumps to subtly illu-minate a tree, a shrub or a pathway.

3. As art If you have certain artistic talents, why not turn your tree stumps into works of art? Sand then

paint them to create unique decorative elements for your garden. You could even engrave or sculpt the

wood if you'd like. 4. As a planter Fill up hollow tree stumps with soil and sow some seeds inside. Choose plant varieties that spread

quickly to add character to your garden in no time at all.

all. To find all the plants, materials and tools you'll need to make your project a success, visit a garden-ing centre or plant nursery near you.



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Five fun and affordable ways to revitalize your home

Does your home need an update? If a full renovation 3. UPDATE YOUR BATHROOM isn't in the cards this spring, here are five fun and inexpensive makeover tips for reinvigorating your home.

1. NEW ACCESSORIES

Inexpensive upgrades such as new throw pillows on the couch, a fresh tablecloth in the dining room or a chic frame for a painting or photo will help revitalize your home. 2. REARRANGE YOUR FURNITURE

Sometimes changing the layout of a room is all you need to do to make it come alive again. Move your bed to the other side of the room or switch the living room furniture around.

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Replacing accessories like the soap dish, shower curtain and hand towels can make your bathroom feel brand new.

4. SWITCH UP YOUR LIGHTING

A lamp for your bedroom or a new fixture in the dining room will shed new light on a room that's lost its sparkle.

5. DIY UPGRADES

If cabinets want you new in your kitchen, try painting the ones you have for a cost-effective alternative. Consider a DIY approach to other desired upgrades for your home.



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The art of lighting your property and landscape

Embellishing your deck, yard or garden with lighting involves more than simply lining your pathways and flowerbeds with light fixtures. Indeed, there are certain rules you should follow for your landscape lighting to effectively show off your

property come sunset. First, let's focus on safety. Your steps and pathways need to be clearly visible so that you can walk around with ease while staying out of harm's way. Wall-mounted sconces and embedded ground lights are extremely useful for lighting dark areas with style. Next, think about which elements of your landscape you would like to showcase. A beautiful plant that you're particularly fond of? The entrance gate? The fountain? The statue? To add a bit of magic, play with the lighting and install your fixtures (lights, lanterns, projectors, etc.) at random. All it takes is a well-focused beam of light to create an illusion of depth and volume in any yard, big or small.

Interior designer vs. interior decorator: what's the difference?

You've probably heard the terms interior designer and interior decorator used interchangeably. However, they actually describe two different but similar professions.

Interior designers complete two- or four-year degree programs that involve studying subjects like colour theo-ry, architecture, computer-aided design and spatial plan-

They work with architects and contractors to plan and renovate spaces and can be involved in every step of the remodelling process, from drawing up floor plans to add-ing the final touches. Interior decorators focus on esthetics. They help trans-

form spaces that are already built by making recommen-dations about paint colours, furniture styles, lighting and accessories. They're not required to complete professional training (though many decorators do), and they usually work directly with businesses and homeowners.

Should I hire a designer or a decorator? If you need help with designs during a renovation, it's

best to go with an interior designer. They'll help you create a space that serves your specific needs and aligns with your particular tastes. However, if you're mainly looking to update the appearance of a space, a decorator can help you achieve a whole new look by rearranging and redeco-

In the end, what matters most is not the job title, but the skills of the designer or decorator in question. Choose a company or professional with a reputation for high-quality designs and expertise in the type of work you're looking for.







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How to choose the right landscaping specialist

A beautiful exterior designed by a professional landscaper is a sure way to enhance your home's curb appeal and increase its market value. Here's how to find a land-scaping expert that will know how to interpret your preferences and respond to your needs accordingly.

First, determine what it is that you want an intimate, Zen-inspired terrace? A garden bursting with colour, or perhaps a functional yard for entertaining guests? The choice is yours! For inspiration, tour your neigh-bourhood, search the web or flip through landscaping design magazines. Next, find out which businesses offer landscaping services in your area. Ask to see a portfolio of their past creations to figure out if their style matches what you have in mind. A professional landscaping artist that values

their clientele will take the time to answer all of your questions.

Ideally, you want to get a price estimate from at least three different companies. Each estimate should include the landscaping design plan, estimated duration of the project and, of course, total cost (including materials, warranties and labour).

No matter which company you end up choosing, a written contract for your review should be made available before any work commences. Make sure to read each line attentively before signing away! Lastly, ensure the company will supply you with all of the pertinent information regarding the proper care of your new plants. Better yet, ask if they offer maintenance services so that you can enjoy your beautiful new yard without having to lift a finger!



A beautiful exterior designed by a landscaping artist will inevitably enhance your home's curb appeal.

Spring maintenance: 5 key things to inspect outside your home

When spring arrives, it's important to inspect the exterior of your home to make sure it hasn't been damaged over the winter. Here are five key things

you should check.

1. The roof. A visual inspection from the ground or a window will indicate if immediate repairs are

needed. In particular, look out for curled, wavy or missing shingles. Also, check the ceilings inside your house for signs of water infiltration.

2. Gutters and spouts. Make sure they're still firmly attached to the house and that nothing is blocking water from flowing through them. Remove any



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3. Foundation. Examine the concrete for cracks or signs of water damage. Even the smallest fissure can cause big problems for your home. If you see any signs of degradation, schedule a repair as soon as possible.

4. Balcony or patio. Clean your deck thoroughly and secure any loose boards. Wood patios should be stained every one to three years. If it needs to be done this spring, sand the surface and apply your chosen stain.

5. Windows and doors. Check the caulking around each window and door, and replace it if necessary. Inspect wooden frames to make sure they don't show signs of water infiltration or rot.

If you notice any major damage during your inspection, be sure to make the needed repairs.





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Ten ways to **REJUVENATE** your home

Does the outside of your home look a little tired and worn out? Here are some really simple tips that will help you give your home a whole new look.

- 1. Paint your front door a bright colour. Nothing is more eye-catching and inviting.
- 2. Replace the hardware around your front entrance: doorbell, mailbox, locks, etc.
- 3. Install a door knocker. They come in all sizes and shapes these days and can add a touch of style or whimsy to your door.
- 4. Give your street number a more up-todate look. Gone are the days of those ugly metallic stickers on the mailbox.
- 5. If your house has wooden shutters or mouldings around the windows, there's a good chance the paint is peeling. Get out the paintbrushes and think about using this opportunity to change the colour
- 6. Clean your gutters and replace them if necessary.
- 7. Buy a new door mat to add style to your home.
- 8. Replace an old doorstep. In addition to being visually unattractive, dilapidated doorsteps can cause insulation problems.

- Clean! Use a pressure washer to clean the siding and then wash your windows.
- 10. Be creative with your decorative light-

ing. Put up some lanterns, strings of mini-lights (clear Christmas lights) or recessed lights under the steps. You'll be the envy of the neighbourhood!

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Embellish your yard with a pond

Adding a pond to your property is an excellent way to embellish your way to embellish your outdoor space and give it personality. To incorporate a pond that harmonizes with the rest of your land-scaping, keep these tips in mind.

LOCATION Determine the ideal spot for your pond. First of all, you'll need to consider sun-light, because your water feature might house varireature might house vari-ous living species (plants, fish, frogs, etc.) with dif-ferent needs. Make sure that your pond will receive enough sunlight for flora and fauna to thrive. Fur-there are a state of the second second there are a state of the second sec thermore, avoid placing your pond next to a tree, because its roots may eventually damage it.

SIZE After finding the perfect spot for your water feature, you'll need to determine its size and shape. To choose the appropriate size, con-sider how big your yard is. If it's relatively small, a gi-ant pond would only make it feel more cramped. The opposite is also true: a tiny pond might go unnoticed in a sprawling yard.

Remember that your pond should complement your yard and that everything is a matter of bal-ance. Preformed models ance. Preformed models (made of fibreglass, resin or polyester, for example) in various sizes and shapes are available on the mar-ket; you're sure to find one that perfectly matches your yard

FINISHING TOUCH

Once you've set up your pond, you'll be able to highlight it with plants, a sculpture, solar-powered lanterns, a rustic bench, or any other accessories you'd like.



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