

Spring/Summer News



R & W Construction Custom Home Remodeling, Inc.

HOW TO SELECT A PROFESSIONAL, RELIABLE CONTRACTOR

- Hire a NARI contractor.
- Check to see if the contractor belongs to at least one professional organization and is active in that organization (such as their local Chamber of Commerce).
- Contact the contractor's insurance agent and get a copy of their Certificate of Insurance. Make sure they have at least the minimum required General Liability and Workmen's Compensation Insurance.
- Be sure you are comparing apples to apples, in other words that all of the contractors bidding on your work are bidding on the same scope and quality of work. Be sure to ask for clarity.
- CALL REFERENCES!
- Visit our website at www.R-WConstruction.com for more information on these points.

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EPA CERTIFIED LEAD RENOVATOR

As of April 22, 2010, Under the EPA's new Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting program, contractors doing work in homes built before 1978 must possess an RRP certification, have undergone a specialized training course and follow specific safe work procedures in order to prevent dangerous lead paint exposure, which can affect children's brains and nervous systems and cause high blood pressure in adults.

Once a contractor is certified, his name will appear on the



EPA Web site list of certified contractors (cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/searchrrp_firm.htm) so that homeowners and local building code enforcement officials can be sure that they are dealing with compliant contractors. The fine for not being certified is very steep—\$37,500 per incident, per day. What

that can mean to a customer is that their contractor must stop their work immediately, pay the fine (which not many contractors have to spare) and can't get back to work until said fine is paid and they become certified. This will leave the customer's job on hold and they will most likely lose that particular contractor along with any money they have put into the job up to that point.

R & W Construction is an EPA Lead-Safe Certified Firm. Please visit their website and click on the EPA RRP Lead Rule link to learn more.

THE NOT SO BIG® CONCEPT

R & W Construction has been for the way you live and to design a space that favors the QUALITY of that space over the QUANTITY. You want the House movement (the brain-child of architect, Sarah Susanka) in their work. The idea behind the Not So Big House is to use the most of your space to individualize it

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ceilings, etc., use that money to design what you NEED in your house.

Read more on this concept at www-R-WConstruction.com. We'd love to hear from you and to help you create your new space to reflect the way you live.

VOLUNTEER CORNER: REBUILDING TOGETHER

On April 24th some members of the R & W team took part in a project for Rebuilding Together called Restore Aurora. Project Restore Aurora took on 30 homes in the Aurora area—making repairs and renovations that were much needed.

critical repairs to the homes of low-income Americans.

Rebuilding Together believes in a safe and healthy home for every person. They also believe they can preserve affordable homeownership

and revitalize communities by providing free home modifications and repairs, making homes safer, more accessible, and more energy efficient.

R & W was part of such a random, yet awesome team of volunteers working so well together. It was a very rewarding experience.

Rebuilding Together is the nation's leading nonprofit working to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize communities. Their network of more than 200 affiliates provides free rehabilitation and



Become a volunteer or donate to Rebuilding Together by visiting their website: www.rebuildingtogether.org.

SPRING HOME MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Now that Spring has sprung, it's time to get back outside and do some Spring Home Maintenance.

While more comprehensive seasonal lists are on our website, I wanted to give you a short list of items to get you started:

- Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and CO detectors if you didn't already when we "sprang ahead" with the time change.

- Remove coverings and debris from around your air conditioner and have it checked and professionally cleaned.
- Make sure the sump pump is in working order and that the pit is free of debris.
- Remove debris from downspouts and gutters and gutter extensions.
- Remove early signs of bird nests or wasp/hornet nests from around the exterior of the house.
- Check deck boards for damage and set any protruding nails.

- Check window and door screens and have repaired.

Your home is most likely your most valuable asset. It is important to make sure it's in good, safe operating condition.

And, as always, if R & W Construction can help you with any of your maintenance items, be sure to call. No job is too big or too small!

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE REMODELING INDUSTRY

Randy & Wendy Franz are both Certified Remodelers through NARI—that should be a very important criteria to you when you are hiring a contractor. Contractors in the state of Illinois do not need to be licensed so anyone can pick up a hammer and call themselves a remodeler.

NARI has made it easy in quick,

entertaining videos for you to familiarize yourself with NARI and what it's all about. Please visit our website at www.R-WConstruction.com and click on the NARI link to view these videos with the topics of:

- Overview of NARI
- NARI Code of Ethics
- Selecting a Remodeler
- NARI Certification
- Testimonials

In this day and age where you need to make sure you are getting the absolute best quality for your money with no fear of losing your money or having to engage in legal proceedings after using a bad contractor, you need to ensure you are hiring someone professional, responsible and reliable.

Hire a NARI certified contractor and know you're hiring the best!



Learn more about
NARI at their website
www.NARI.org

R & W HAS JOINED THE SOCIAL NETWORKING WORLD!

We here at R & W are not only passionate about the work that we do, but also in educating people in any way that we can. One of the best tools that we have discovered for doing just that is through Social Networking.

Quick little tidbits can be shared with our followers by us posting a "tweet" on

Twitter. A tweet can be no longer than 160 characters long, but it can include website links or photo links, so we like to shoot out little, interesting, informative tidbits when we come across them by tweeting. Somewhat longer tidbits can be shared through our Facebook page. On there, we like to include photo albums of what we are currently in-

involved in. And for longer ramblings on topics near and dear to our hearts, we have our Blog. On there we can write on a topic as long as we'd like and like to include a picture or two.

Check us out on this various mediums at the addresses listed below. Happy surfing!

APPLE PANCAKE SOUFFLÉ

Serves—8

Ingredients:

- 1 cup + 2 Tbs all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons Sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon Salt
- 1/2 teaspoon Cinnamon
- 2 cups Egg substitute -- fat free
- 2 cups Skim milk
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons Unsalted margarine -- stick
- 6 Apples, peeled -- sliced thin
- 3 tablespoons Light brown sugar -- firmly packed

Preparation:

- Preheat the oven to 425° F.
- In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, salt and cinnamon; make a well in the center. Add the egg substitute, milk and vanilla; whisk until thoroughly combined.
- Place the margarine in a 13x9" baking dish; place in the oven until the margarine is melted and sizzling, about 3 minutes. Add the apples and mix gently to coat. Bake until the apples are heated through, about 5 minutes. Pour the egg mixture over the apples; sprinkle with the brown sugar. Bake until the souffle is puffed and golden and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, about 35 minutes. Serve at once.



Weeping Cherry Tree—a beautiful spring bloomer.

In an effort to go green, we would love to one day be able to send out our newsletter 100% online. Please visit our website and sign up to receive our E-Newsletter, full of fun, timely and interesting information, every other month.

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