

Home Improvement

Kikendall Cabin Open House Sunday, Sept. 16

The Kikendall Cabin will be open to the public from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 16.

New items will be on display at the cabin. An old oxen yoke was recently donated by an early family from the Lord Hill area for display at the cabin. An old wringer washing machine has been donated, as well. Some people insist that these washing machines cleaned your clothes better than the ones on the market today.

Crystal Johanson, now in her 90's, is the great granddaughter of Charles And Zilpha Kikendall, the original builders of the cabin. People love talking with Crystal and hearing her great stories of her family.

The cabin was originally built between the Snohomish-Machias Road and the Pilchuck River (before there

was a road, a neighbor moved the family out on a logging sled) in the fall of 1875.

The first floor was 20 feet wide and 16 feet deep. The kitchen area was added on the back around 1895 increasing the depth to 25 feet. The second floor was used for sleeping quarters.

When the cabin was eventually wired for electricity, the light bulb was located directly over the organ, not only for light, but to help keep the organ warm and dry during the winter months.

In 1966, the Pioneer Boys and Girls Association moved the Kikendall Cabin to Snohomish to the Pioneer Cemetery (next to Collector's Choice behind Rite Aid) and restored both the property and the cabin. The Pioneer Cemetery was established

in 1875 with the last burials being in the 1920s.

A new roof and pillars have been installed on the cabin and items are continually being added, one of which is a wooden bicycle.

The Snohomish Historical Society has used the cabin for demonstrations of Pioneer skills such as rug weaving, spinning, wood carving, corn husk doll-making and more. It now serves as an office for the cemetery and is open by appointment.

There will be no appointment needed Sept. 16, so stop by and visit with Crystal Johanson. She will be delighted to tell you some stories you haven't heard before and show you the kitchen in the cabin that is boasting a new floor, stove and table!



Kikendall Cabin

Weekend projects for fall

(BPT) - If you love spending time in your yard, the end of summer can mark a period of sadness thinking about the colder temperatures and shorter days you must endure before getting back outside.

One sure cure for the blues is looking forward to something fun. Get a head start on spring and use the time now to complete a project that will enhance your yard. Whether you've been wanting a patio, a zen garden or just some new flower beds, fall weekends are an ideal time to make it happen. By spring, they'll be ready and waiting for your finishing touches!

With the help of rental equipment, you can get these jobs done in a fraction of the time and with much less of an investment than purchasing expensive tools yourself. Here are five weekend projects you can complete this fall and dream about all winter.

- Zen garden: Building a free-standing, minimalist zen garden is a simple but powerfully effective way to add beauty and texture to a lawn or patio. To get a head start in the fall, plan where you'd like to set that rectangle of tranquility in your yard. Once that's measured and marked off, you can rent a sod cutter to almost effortlessly remove the grass. Before the ground freezes, give that rectangle a stone border, and cover with a tarp. When spring comes, the foundation of your zen space will be ready and waiting for you to add plants, shrubs, gravel, lanterns and maybe a statue or two.

- Pond: This fall, choose a sunny spot in your yard to build your pond, and then rent a tool, like a mini-excavator, to move the dirt and even carve out the terraces. When that job is done, you'll have plenty of time to get the bulk of the project ready for spring, such as adding your sand layer, the waterproof liner and installing the pump. Finally, arrange the rocks to create a beautiful and natural-looking perimeter that's waiting for spring and the addition of water and plants.

- Patio and pergola: When you compare a paver-brick patio with a traditional wood deck, the advantages of the patio are very evident. Patios are easy for do-it-yourselfers to complete in a weekend or two, they're less expensive to build and they're easier to maintain and repair. You can also add a pergola to create a beautiful space for outdoor dining and entertaining. With the help of a rented post hole digger, you can have the posts in place before the snow flies.

- Flower beds: Flower beds add beauty to your yard, but they can accomplish so much more. Wide beds along property lines can create a privacy buffer between you



and the rest of the world and increase the curb appeal of your home. Preparing the bed in the fall means less dirt work in the spring, so you can spend that time getting plants in the ground. The good news is, if you decide you want the bed to be bigger, you can just rent a walk-behind skid steer and get the job done quickly.

- Fire pit: Nothing's better than sitting around the fire with friends and loved ones. Fire pits are the ideal fall project because you can start enjoying it almost right away. Whether you add to an existing patio or start new, renting a cement mixer and

a paver saw for custom-fitted pieces can help you create a functional new feature in just a weekend or two.

Find the rental companies, tools and equipment in your neighborhood that can help you make your vision a reality at RentalHQ.com.

Home Improvement

What the color of your home reveals about you

(BPT) - According to the recent poll conducted by Ply Gem Building Products, only half of homeowners say their home's exterior reflects their personality. This is an especially surprising statistic since 81 percent of Americans say the exterior of a home shapes their view of the homeowner.

With countless material options and accents like shutters and trim, there are several ways to add color to your home. Replacing old siding with vinyl siding tends to be a popular approach because it can improve the look of an entire home exterior, while also being low maintenance and durable. Before replacing your home's siding, you may be interested to learn what your color choices say about your personality. The following profiles will provide some insight and inspiration for

making big decisions about your home exterior:

- **Calm, cool, collected = Blue:** More than half the population (55 percent) believes the color blue has the most positive impact on their mood, which explains why blue skies are synonymous with peace and happiness. Along these lines, blue siding coordinates easily with a variety of accent colors whether it be white and gray or red and orange.

- **Safe, certain, dependable = Neutral:** Fifty-three percent of Americans would choose neutral colors such as beige, white or gray for the exterior of their home. In fact, if you want the latest on-trend curb appeal, consider shades of gray, which have grown in popularity by about 5 percent over the past four years. Gray is very versatile - it can easily be mixed and matched with just about any accent color

and trim selection.

- **Brave, confident = Bold:** Fifty-five percent of Americans say homes with bold colors belong to people with bold personalities. Recent advances in vinyl siding technology, such as the SolarDefense reflective technology from Ply Gem Mastic, have made it possible to choose daring colors such as deep reds, greens and browns.

Are you still unsure about which siding color best suits you? Take the risk out of choosing colors by using an online visualizer tool like the one available from Ply Gem Mastic. The visualizer lets you preview what your color choices will look like on your home before you make a commitment.

Colors are important, but don't forget maintenance.

While colors can send a message, that statement can

be undermined by a lack of upkeep. Consider low-maintenance products like vinyl siding, which come in endless color options, but do not require upkeep such as painting or staining.

Is it time to make a change?

Thirty-seven percent of homeowners say they did not get to choose the exterior siding on their home. If you're part of that group, what better time than the present to update the look of your house (before the holiday season kicks in)? Doing so could also add significant value to your home. According to the latest cost versus value survey by *Remodeling Magazine*, upgrading to vinyl siding recoups 76 percent of the project cost on average. For more information on adding personality - and value - to your home, visit www.mastic.com.



Make a statement with your home exterior by choosing deep blues, browns and more.

Prep your home for winter

Winterize your house, or you could end up paying for it later. Sky-high energy bills: Seal off any cracks and gaps with caulk, and check entrances for signs of worn or broken weatherstripping.



Water leaks: Freezing temperatures amplify the risk of water damage, especially after a power outage or a furnace malfunction. Protect your home with a smart home device like LeakSmart, which detects not only freezing temperatures but leaks, shuts off your home's main water supply and notifies you via free, downloadable app in five seconds or less.

Power outages: Make sure your generator or backup power source has fuel and is in good working order. Keep basic supplies at the ready, such as blankets, batteries and food.

Ice dams: To help prevent ice dams and dangerous hanging icicles, clean the gutters and downspouts of leaves and other debris, and check the condition of your attic insulation.

Choosing the right wood for your deck project



(BPT) - The deck is the perfect spot for get-togethers and events. However, if yours needs a facelift or a complete re-do, now is the perfect time of year to complete a new outdoor living space customized to fit your needs. A new wood deck can add value to your home, but be sure to choose the right wood products to build it. Thus, the question becomes: What type of wood do you use? When do you use ground-contact and above-ground, pressure-treated wood?

This article can help you determine what type of wood you need to use and where. Follow this guide from Viance and you'll be on your way to building the deck of your dreams.

Ground-contact wood

As its name implies, ground-contact wood often forms the foundation of your project and may include the support posts placed in or on the ground, in concrete or in fresh water. Ground-contact should also be used whenever your wood pieces

will be installed less than 6 inches off the ground, such as a ground level deck.

Ground contact wood earns this designation because it has been specifically treated to protect against fungal decay and termite attack at and below the ground's surface. For your deck project, ground-contact, preservative-treated wood should be used for ledger boards, stair stringers and support posts. Other landscaping projects, like garden boxes, landscape walls and anything else that may be built in or on the ground, should use ground-contact, preservative-treated wood.

Above-ground wood

Above-ground wood is the other major designation, and this is the wood type you will use to build most of your deck. You can use above-ground treated wood for locations that are easy to maintain and repair, quick to dry and where ample air flow around the wood is possible. On most decks, this will be your deck boards, guardrails,

balusters, joists and beams. Above-ground wood uses fewer preservative chemicals than ground-contact wood, and in newer preservative systems like Ecolife, it provides added benefits that can repel water, minimize cracking and keep boards straighter. Above-ground

wood is also the ideal choice for many outdoor projects including arbors, trellises, lattice, decorative posts, trim boards and fence pickets.

If the wood will be more than 6 inches from the ground, above-ground wood is the ideal, and most economical type of treated wood to use.

Finding the right wood for your deck today

No matter the dimensions of your deck, chances are you'll use a combination of ground-contact and above-ground, pressure-treated wood. Applying the guide above can help you determine which wood type you need for each phase of your project, but questions could still arise. You can find answers at treatedwood.com and learn more about EcoLife and Preserve pressure-treated wood.