

Tackle causes of mold before it spreads trouble

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the air and house dust. Remember, mold spores can not grow if moisture is not present.

If you clean up the mold,

but don't fix the water problem, then most likely, the mold problem will come back.

If you respond promptly (within 24-48 hours) to a moisture problem, you have a

good chance of controlling a potential mold problem. Promptly clean hard surfaces with water and detergent and dry completely. The key to mold control is moisture

control. It is essential to clean up the mold and get rid of excess water or moisture. Absorbent material such as ceiling tile that are moldy may need to be replaced.

Although it is impossible to eliminate all mold spores, with the right measures we can control hazardous mold and its harmful affects.

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Get Dad a room of his own to relax and unwind from his day

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to finish — or refinish — that space. The good news is basement finishing has come a long way in recent years. Once considered to be a long and messy process, there are now finishing systems specifically designed for basements that provide a fast and easy transformation. System approaches have some big advantages over drywall construction. The process of installing the system of insulated wall components and drop ceiling takes about two weeks to complete, versus the

typical multi-month traditional remodeling process.

The folks at Owens Corning have developed the Basement Finishing System (TM) for just this purpose. Installation is not only quicker and cleaner but it helps address mold and moisture concerns unique to the basement environment. The system features insulated walls that breathe, are mold and mildew resistant and help make rooms warm and quiet. The walls are durable and are designed to be easily removed for quick access to

the home's foundation, plumbing or electric wiring.

The Owens Corning Basement Finishing System is installed by trained professionals so Dad can concentrate on important things, like channel surfing. In as little as two weeks and with little of the mess and disruption of traditional drywall work, your basement can become a bright, clean and comfortable place where Dad can have his big screen TV, video games, weight set and hobby table. A place he can decorate — or not — just as he pleases. It's a

great way to reward dads right now for what they've been giving for so many years.

And while he deserves a place of his own, many families will find that what's good for Dad is good for the household, too. Although it's his room, he'll be proud to share it with the whole family to play games together or watch TV, but don't touch the remote. Plus his huge TV will no longer be the centerpiece of the living room upstairs. When he has friends over for a big game, they can be as

loud as they like, stay up as late as they want and not disrupt the rest of the household.

"Our customers use their finished basements for a wide variety of personalized uses, everything from home theater systems to workshops to home gyms," says Frank Palmeri, business manager, Owens Corning Basement Finishing System (TM) and father of two. "Most of them consider the installation an investment rather than a cost, adding value to their home for the future while cre-

ating a bigger, better living space today. And I can't imagine an investment that would make Dad happier than having a room he can call his own."

This Father's Day, treat Dad to a room he can have his way. Because every king deserves a castle. For more information on Owens Corning Basement Finishing System, call (800) Basement or visit 1-800-basement.com (or basementfinishingssystem.com).

Canopies can add shade and value



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adding a retractable canopy, the pergola becomes a usable shaded seating area."

Canopies are available in more than 30 fabrics to fit virtually every design theme. ShadeTree systems come pre-cut and pre-drilled for easy installation by do-it-yourselfers. The company also offers a database of qualified installers on its Web site, www.ShadeTreeCanopies.com. Canopy tracks are made of reinforced vinyl or powder-coated aluminum and can be left in place all year, even when the canopy has been rolled up and stored for the winter. Taking down the canopies requires only minutes.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.ShadeTreeCanopies.com, or call (800) 894-3501.

Your weekly source of information in Charlotte's black community

Know the deal in curb appeal

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tions, which all contribute to the energy efficiency of the window. The most energy-efficient models feature the ENERGY STAR, and also qualify for tax credits when renovations are completed on your primary home in the United States now through the end of 2007.

Pella offers a full line of wood windows with natural insulating qualities, along with energy-efficient vinyl or fiberglass composite windows. Regardless of what region of the country you live in, there are window products to match the style of your home with color combinations to transform your home's exterior to an updated look. Pella window installation experts can install new windows in about a day, depending on the size and structural elements of your home.

Option two - replace the

entry door. A new entry door can make a huge difference in the style statement your home makes - the color, composition, size and finish all combine for a positive or negative first impression. Make sure your entry door is not only functioning properly for safety and security purposes, but that it's sending a positive message about what lies ahead in your home. Pella offers steel or fiberglass entry doors that are durable, distinctive and ready for paint or stain. The beauty of fiberglass is that it offers the look of wood without the work, because it doesn't require new paint or stain each year. The low maintenance qualities plus the insulating value and durability of fiberglass make it an energy-efficient choice over wood.

Option three - add a storm door. A new storm door is a great addition to any front door; plus, it adds extra insu-

lation to the home. According to independent testing, a Pella storm door added to an entryway can reduce energy loss through the entryway by up to 45 percent. Pella can save you time and money with a new storm door installation process that can be done in less than an hour. Here's how Pella's Express Install works:

- Simplified storm door installation gives customers the pre-assembled parts.
- No cutting is required and pre-drilled installation and assembly holes eliminate any guesswork.
- Only five tools are needed to complete the storm door installation. With the Express Install door the only tools required are:
 1. Tape measure
 2. Pencil
 3. Power drill with 3/32 inch drill bit
 4. Phillips Screwdriver number 2

5. Scissors

• Storm doors with Express Install also feature a keyed multipoint lock which secures the door in two places.

Option four - other exterior updates. Cosmetic changes to the outside of the home can be extremely valuable when it's time for reselling. A fresh coat of paint, new siding, additional landscaping and even lighting for night all contribute to the beauty of a home. Your home is your best asset and likely one of your largest investments. Make the most of every detail on the home's exterior to leave an important lasting impression.

For more information on how you can improve your home's curb appeal or for ideas about a new home, contact a local Pella Window & Door store expert by calling (888) 84-PELLA or logging on to www.pella.com.

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Adding value to home with a deck

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The warmer weather is a good catalyst to get you itching to do those home improvement projects, especially those that prolong and enhance your outdoor living experience.

With rising interest rates and the cooling of the recent housing boom, homeowners have access to less equity to do such a project. So, now more than ever, you need to be smarter about choosing a project that will give you a better return on your investment.

Adding a new deck, or remodeling an existing outdated deck, will do more for you than just boost your outdoor living experience. It will add value to your home and its resale value.

Remodeling magazine's most recent "Cost Vs. Value Report" compares construc-

tion costs with resale value in 58 markets and gives you a city-by-city guide on what various home projects will pay back at resale. According to the report, the national average resale value of adding a deck is 90.3 percent (and can be as high as 99.5 percent in the Western region of the country). So, for example, if a homeowner were to spend \$5,000 on a deck, the cost recouped at the time of resale would be \$4,515.

In comparison, the national average resale value for a mid-range bathroom addition is 86.4 percent; a major upscale kitchen remodel is 84.8 percent; a mid-range family room is 83 percent; and a mid-range home office remodel is 72.8 percent.

"Composite decking is a great choice to further boost the resale value of your home," explains F. John



Long, who is responsible for the sales and marketing for GeoDeck, a leading composite decking and railing manufacturer.

"While it might cost more up front, in reality composite decking costs less over time compared to pressure treated wood because it requires minimal maintenance. You don't have to stain or seal it every year, and the boards hold up over time unlike wood, so there is no need for spot replacements.

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