



The Oak Tree Observer

Home Improvement Information You Can Use

Summer, 2013

SOMETIMES THE BEST WARM WEATHER VACATION SPOT IS YOUR OWN BACKYARD DECK!

Summer weather is here (finally), but with it brings the desire to save money on your A/C bills and to keep your home as comfortable as possible! There are several ways to accomplish this without breaking the bank!

Dress Up Your Windows

The right window treatments can go a long way, for little cost, in keeping your home cool.

From basic "black-out" curtains, blinds and shades to retractable electronic ones, any window covering that will keep the harsh sun from entering your home will save money on cooling costs.

You can even enhance your cooling efficiency from outside the home by installing an awning, pergola or other cover over your windows.

Get Breezy With Fans

There are several different types of fans that will help improve the efficiency of your cooling system.

A whole house fan removes stale, warm air from the living

space in your home and pushes it out through the attic. Whole house fans can replace the need for A/C on most days in most climates.

Most attics can reach 150-175 degrees on a hot summer day, air which is sitting right over the living space in your home. Installing an attic fan can cool your attic and draw that air away from the living space of the home.

In addition, ceiling fans can supplement or replace your air conditioning by circulating air in warmer areas of your house.

Wrap Your Home

Good insulation is key to keeping your HVAC systems running efficiently and keeping your home cool. In the summer, insulation will keep the cool air *inside* your home and the hot air *outside* your home (and the opposite in winter).

Oak Tree Construction is available to help keep you more comfortable and save money during the summer. Give us a call today! 847-843-3030.

Share Your Email With us!

Help us go green by sharing your email address with us so we can send this newsletter to you electronically.



Email us at donna@oaktreeconstruction.com.

As a note, we hate spam too! We will not sell or give your email to anyone else and will keep our emails to you at a minimum!

GET ALONG WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!

Oak Tree Construction wishes to introduce you to some of our business relationships that we feel can help make your life easier!

Joel Boeing with Edward Jones helps you make sense of your investing! He is knowledgeable, caring, keeps in touch with his clients, and listens to you and your needs. 847-524-2908.

Nothing says "clean" like Sam Salaita of ServiceMASTER Clean! They are a residential and commercial cleaning service. Whether it is cleaning carpets or upholstery in your home or office or restoring peace of mind after a fire or flood, give Sam a call! 847-844-8882.

OAK TREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Summer from Oak Tree Construction! People are remodeling and keeping us busy as we head into the warmer months. Now's the time to contact us about your remodeling projects!

Mike and Donna have renewed their NARI Certifications for the year. What does this mean for you? It means that we have been participating in continuing education throughout the year to keep us up-to-date on the latest products and design ideas for your project!

Mike also attended a joint meeting of NARI and the National Kitchen & Bath Association, an excellent opportunity to network with both contractors and kitchen & bath designers.

Questions? Comments!


Please Contact
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ALL THE BASICS For Your Home


You don't have to break a sweat cleaning your home this summer! Here are some tips from rightathome.com for keeping cool while cleaning!

 **Dehumidify.** Humidity increases the growth of mold and mildew in your bathroom. Keep your exhaust fan running while you bathe or shower and for 30 minutes afterward.


 **Stop Dirt in its Tracks.** Invest in a sturdy nylon mat for each doorway to help keep outside dirt, outside. A “no

shoes” rule also helps cut down on dirt.


 **Cleaner Toilets, Faster.** Instead of using a traditional toilet brush, invest in a bowl cleaner that has a scrubby pad on it. It not only covers more surface area, the pad cuts down on scrubbing time and effort.

 **No-Scrub Showers.** There are many sprays on the market that you can use immediately after each shower that will cut down on the build-up of soap scum and mildew. Some even attach to your shower head and are activated at the touch of a button!

Spot-Free Refrigerators. Place shelf liners, available in grocery stores, in your

 refrigerator drawers. When they become soiled, just do a quick wipe-down and replace!

Consolidate your Cleaning Products. There are many “multi-purpose” cleaners on the market now that not only can be used on different things—wood, countertops, glass, etc.—but help to prevent dust and dirt from settling on the surface.

 **Cut Down Entertainment Messes.** Summer gatherings are usually informal, so use disposable plates, utensils and serving ware. Who wants to be stuck in the kitchen doing dishes?



Get a Handle on a Quick Home Makeover!

Updating the cabinets in your home doesn't always come with a hefty price tag!

Switching your existing cabinetry hardware is an easy and low-cost way to revamp your kitchen or bathroom. Handles and knobs come in different shapes, styles and finishes to reflect (or change) the style of each room.

We like The Knobbery, 930 W. Northwest Highway, Arlington Heights. They have a wide selection of knobs, handles and other cabinet hardware to update your look—some you've never seen or thought of before!

Projects designed and constructed by
OAK TREE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, Inc.

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