



FELTON ANTRIM CONSTRUCTION CO

Homefront

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Although much progress has been made in the recovery of our economy, homeowners still need to be careful about how much they invest in upgrading their property. There are four key areas, which a return on your investment is nearly a guarantee. With careful planning and budget-friendly options, making your home into to your dream home, is within reach.

Start with the heart of the home; the kitchen. Re-facing cabinets is an affordable option. In fact, the savings is about 75% over purchasing all new cabinets. Re-facing includes replacing the cabinet fronts, drawers and hardware on your structurally solid existing cabinetry. Another

Upgrade Your Investment, While Adding Value to Your Return

cost-effective option is a professional paint job on the existing cabinets and replacing the hardware.

Another great way to bring a new, fresh look to your kitchen is to replace your countertops. If you think marble or granite are not within your financial means, think again. There are plenty avenues to purchase these materials at a discounted

rate. Often times, stone yards have remnants at fraction of the cost. For an even more affordable option, durable laminate countertops, which resemble granite or marble, are available.

Freshening up your bathroom is a promising investment with a boost to your home's bottom line. It's generally the little things that have the most impact. A new sink, faucet and other fixtures can bring a whole new look and feel, while increasing your home's value. Give your bathroom that extra punch, with a standard mirror, framed with tile or molding.

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email the expert

Question: I am so tired of using soap and water on my granite, it takes forever to clean and remove the soapy film. I'd love a cleaner that I can "spray and wipe" for dried food spills, etc. I am starting to hate my granite because it is so high maintenance. Thanks in advance for any suggestions.

Answer: I was just introduced to Sprayway... great and safe for granite and the best thing I have ever used for glass. I first purchased a bottle at World Market for almost \$5 and then found it at Sam's for \$6 for 4 bottles!

I have two granites in my kitchen and one is absolute black...this stuff works great. One tip, get most of the gunk off with a sponge and then spray and wipe with this stuff. You will be amazed at how well it works!

You can email the Expert by sending your questions to <mailto:info@feltonantrim.com>. Please be sure to include your name and phone number in case additional information is required to answer your question.

Would you like to have the nicest home in the neighborhood?

Do you know we are experts in a variety of home improvement projects? If you're considering a new project for your home, please give us a call. We'll be happy to answer all of your questions and provide you with our expert advice for free.

Here's a list of some of the projects we specialize in:

Kitchen Renovation
Bathroom Renovation
Sunrooms
Room Addition

famous quote

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

- Dr. Seuss

10 Tips for Great Grilling

1. Safety first! Grill placement is key to a safe and fun experience. Be sure to have several feet between the grill and any flammable surface, to prevent melted siding and fire.
2. Preheat the grill. By bringing it up to temperature, you're burning off any previous residue. Your food will cook properly with a preheated grill.
3. While cooking, close the lid. Again, similar to the oven, you wouldn't bake with the door open. In order to control the cooking temperature, the lid must be closed.
4. Understanding marinades. If your marinade has a high sugar content, you should use apply it as a sauce once the meat is nearly cooked, rather than dredging it prior to cooking. A sugary marinade would burn if applied too soon.
5. To oil or not to oil? The grates of the grill, that is. As with sugar, oil is highly flammable. Oil also has a very low smoking point. To ensure a moist, rather than dry result, apply a thin layer of oil to food and not to the grill grates.
6. Understanding when to use direct versus indirect heat. For foods that cook in 20 minutes or less, it's best to use direct heat. For large, dense foods that take longer to cook, indirect heat should be used. This method takes a bit longer and allows for the food to be cooked through at a consistent temperature.
7. Time and temperature. A hot grill is not always best. Most often, food needs a moderate, gentle heat. This, combined with proper cooking time, will result in tender, juicy, flavorful food.
8. Be food specific. Grill Master understands the difference between grilling fish and ribs. Fish cooked directly on the grill, may result in a strong fishy flavor. Grilling fish indirectly, on a water-soaked cedar plank at 325 degrees will result in a crisp, juicy, fantastic tasting treat. When cooking ribs, you want them to be flexible, not rubbery and remain in tact. If they fall apart, they have been cooked for too long.
9. Using the right cut of meat is equally important. A lean cut of brisket will likely come out tough and dry. Don't be afraid to select a cut with a moderate amount of fat. This adds flavor and the remaining fat can typically be cut away after cooking.
10. Use the proper tools. A grilling basket will enable you to cook cubed veggies, without the risk of them falling through the grates. Twelve- inch chef's tongs are perfect for keeping your distance from the heat, while allowing you to have adequate control.

this month in history

The most notorious St. Valentine's Day was in 1929 when seven people were gunned down in an assassination attempt in Chicago. Five members of Al Capone's gang planned to kill members of a rival gang, including the leader. Capone's gang planned to kill Bugs Moran. Bugs Moran was on his way to the garage where the killing took place, but turned away when he saw someone dressed as a policeman (the disguise of the killers) and escaped. One of the seven killed was an innocent man who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

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Think about your home from the top down. Curb appeal has the power to make or break a home appraisal and sale. A new roof is the number one way to entice a potential buyer. There are endless options of cost-efficient roofing materials. If you want to add color and aesthetic

appeal, you're sure to find it in a composite shingle. This budget-friendly alternative to metal, slate or tile, allows you to show off your personal style.

Potential homebuyers are looking for homes with extended, outdoor living space. So much so, that it's on the top ten list of "home must haves". Extend your home by adding outdoor living space, such as a deck or patio. Having a nicely finished wooden deck or a stone patio is like having an outdoor family/dining room. There's not much better than that.

trivia challenge

One legend of St. Valentine contends that he was a priest in 3rd century Rome. The Emperor outlawed marriage because single men made better warriors. Valentine, however, continued to perform marriages in secret. When the Emperor discovered what Valentine was doing he ordered that Valentine be put to death. Who was the Emperor?

- A. Claudius II
- B. Nero
- C. Tiberius
- D. Caligula

The first correct answer faxed to (fax number) or emailed to (email) will be this month's winner of 2 Movie Passes at (local theatre)!

People around the world have been celebrating the start of each new year for at least four millennia. Who were the first to make resolutions for the new year?

Answer: Babylonians

REFER YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY AND GET A \$50 HOME DEPOT GIFT CARD

Many of our customers "find" us as a result of word of mouth. This simple, yet gracious, act by our customers has allowed us to be successful. For this generosity, we offer our gratitude and a token of our appreciation through our Referral Reward Program!

Here's how:

1. Simply refer someone to our services by sharing our name, phone number, email or by giving them this newsletter.
2. Ask them to mention your name.
3. When your referral becomes our client we will automatically mail you a \$50 Home Depot gift Card.

When you refer your friends, neighbors or family, you've helped our business grow. Offering you this reward is our way of letting you know just how much we appreciate your actions

Remember to tell your friends to mention your name whenever they use our services!

WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING...

"From start to finish we felt like our project was in good hands. Our only regret is that we didn't have this done while our oldest son was still living at home with us. Thanks to you though, we can still enjoy it with the other children."

- Tony & Patty Dawson

Sudoku Puzzler

The Rules of Sudoku (sūdoku²)

The classic Sudoku game involves a grid of 81 squares. The grid is divided into nine blocks, each containing nine squares.

The rules of the game are simple: each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9 within its squares. Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

The difficulty lies in that each vertical nine-square column, or horizontal nine-square line across, within the larger square, must also contain the numbers 1-9, without repetition or omission.

Every puzzle has just one correct solution.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 7 | | | 9 | 2 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | | | | | | | 1 |
| | | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | | |
| 1 | 6 | | | | 7 | | 3 | |
| 5 | | 4 | | | | 7 | | 9 |
| | 7 | | 3 | | | | 1 | 8 |
| | | 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | 9 | 4 |
| 6 | 8 | 9 | | | 2 | | | |

For the solution to this issue's Sudoku Puzzler, email us andy@feltonantrim.com

Green Tip

Use Your Local Grocer - Planning to gift your Valentine with organic flowers or candy? Shopping online or at local green boutiques is one option. But if you're pressed for time, utilize the selection at your local grocery store. Green & Black's and Newman's Own organic chocolates are carried in most supermarkets, and almost all grocers' florists carry organic and sustainable choices.

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