



# The Intelligent Home Owner

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOME STREET HOME IMPROVERS

Issue: March 2005

*"Sharing the knowledge to help you care for your home."*

## Decks: New Materials, New Codes—Know the Facts

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### NARI® Code of Ethics

From the National Association of the Remodeling Industry

Each member of NARI is pledged to observe high standards of honesty, integrity and responsibility in the conduct of business. Some of those standards are as follows:

Write contracts and warranties that are free from ambiguities or omissions which tend to obscure contractual obligations.

Make all advertising and sales promotion factually accurate... avoiding those practices which tend to mislead or deceive the customer with respect to competitive pricing, savings claims or the nature of contracts and warranties.

Home Street is a member of NARI.

Are you considering adding a new deck or updating your existing deck this year? If so, you need to be aware that there have been some major improvements made to decking materials and decking construction techniques that will significantly improve the quality and safety of your project.

Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency and the treated wood industry have agreed upon a voluntarily action to stop treating materials used for residential applications with Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA), which contains arsenic—a known carcinogen.

As of Jan. 1, 2004, all pressure treated wood sold in the USA has been produced using the new CA and ACQ (Copper Azole and Alkaline Copper Quaternary) arsenic-free chemical treatments. However, due to the increased copper content in these

chemicals, they have a severe corrosive effect on fasteners made of non-compatible metals.

In fact, a whole new generation of screws, nails, brackets and fasteners has been developed to help combat the corrosive effects of lumber treated with these chemicals. Your new pressure-treated wood deck, railings, landings and walkways are only as secure and the fasteners with which they are constructed.

Also, to ensure the safety and longevity of your investment, each city has strict codes and guidelines regarding the proper planning of your project, and the use of approved materials and construction techniques.

Decks, railings, landings and walkways that have been constructed without concern for these factors are a safety hazard. The use of improper or incompatible materials, contact with bare ground, improper drainage around footings or the use of non-compliant construction techniques may seriously compromise the integrity and quality of your project.

Home Street Home Improvers complies with all city building codes, and is up-to-date on all of the requirements of building with CA and ACQ



treated materials, so you can be secure in the safety and long life of your new deck.



Call us for more information now, so you can enjoy your new deck this summer!

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency, [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov); Western Wood Preservers Institute, [www.wwpinstitute.org](http://www.wwpinstitute.org); City of Minneapolis Inspections, [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/inspections](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/inspections)

## Visit Home Street At These Upcoming Events

Become inspired for your next home improvement project! Stop by and visit us at any of these upcoming home improvement shows, fairs and expos:

### 7th Annual North Metro Home & Garden Show

Saturday, March 5, 9a—2p  
(Booth # 68, 2nd flr)  
Schwan Ctr., Nat'l Sports Center  
1700 105th Ave. NE, Blaine.

### Home & Garden Show

Minneapolis Convention Center  
Home Street will occupy the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) booth on Wed., Mar. 2 from 10a—1p, Fri., Mar. 4 from 1—4p, and Sun., Mar. 6 from 1—4p (the show runs March 2—6).

### 3rd Annual Rising to New Heights Housing Fair

Sunday, April 3, 8a—3p

Columbia Heights High School  
1400 49th Ave., Col. Hgts  
(The Col. Hgts. Fire Explorers will also be holding their annual pancake breakfast from 7a—2p in the cafeteria. Home Street will be giving away free breakfast tickets throughout the day).

### 3rd Annual Northeast Expo 2005

Saturday, April 16, 10a—3p  
Northeast Middle School  
2955 Hayes St. NE.

PO BOX 16145  
ST. LOUIS PARK, MN 55416-9998

Offices in Northeast Minneapolis & St. Louis Park

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## This Month's Waiting Pet: "Junior"

We, at Home Street, are life-long animal lovers. It is our hope that, through the vast network of our customers and their friends, families and co-workers, we may find homes for these waiting pets. Please post this article at your workplace and place of worship, and share the news of these pets with people you know who may be able to provide a loving home. Thank you.




This month's pet, "Junior," is currently sheltered at the Animal Humane Society, Golden Valley. Junior is a 5 yr. old, neutered, male Beagle who was surrendered because of a divorce situation.

He has lived with children and another dog. He is used to being unconfined indoors. To inquire about adopting "Junior," visit the shelter at 845 Meadow Lane N., Golden Valley, or contact the adoption desk at 763.489.2201, for more information.

The shelter also has many other pets available.

At the AHS, all dogs and cats have been neutered, and you can take your new pet to one of 200 participating veterinarians within three business days for a free health exam.

Thousands of animals are brought to shelters each year because of irresponsible breeding, or people decide they no longer want the animal. The AHS is looking for persons willing to provide a PERMANENT, loving home. Please consider the time, commitment and money required to responsibly care for a pet before adopting.



**Tips from Energy Star**  
www.energystar.gov

**Get written, itemized estimates -** When comparing contractors' proposals (bids), be sure to compare cost, energy efficiency and warranties. A lowest price may not be the best deal if it's not the most efficient because your energy costs will be higher.

**Look for ENERGY STAR -** ENERGY STAR qualified products meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and offer significant long-term energy savings.

## Habitat for Humanity

Home Street Home Improvers will be assisting in the construction of the Habitat for Humanity housing project being erected at 33rd & Stinson in Northeast Minneapolis. Other volunteers are still needed—from actual hands on construction to food servers, errand runners, site greeters, etc. Donations of funds and materials are being sought, as well. If you are interested in sharing your time and skills, or would like to make a donation to this project, contact Habitat for Humanity at 612.331.4090.

## Home Street Offers Full Circle of Services

As spring approaches and you contemplate your home improvement projects, remember, Home Street can offer you the following products and services:

- **Windows, Roofing and Siding**
- **Entry/Storm Doors and Garage Doors**
- **Decks, Fencing and Concrete**
- **Gutters and More...**

Call now to get on the busy spring installation schedule. We can offer you valuable input and help you plan all of your home improvement projects.

## \$\$ Available for Home Improvement Projects

Check with your local neighborhood group, municipality, county or the city in which you live to find out if there is money available for your home improvement projects. There are many programs available that offer low interest loans or even home improvement grants for those who qualify. Contact the **Housing Resource Center (HRC)** at 612.378.7985, or the **Center for Energy and Environment** at 612.335.5884, or **Community Action for Suburban Hennepin** at 952.933.9639 (ext. 210) for information on various programs.

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