



The Intelligent Home Owner

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOME STREET HOME IMPROVERS

Offices In Northeast Minneapolis & St. Louis Park

Issue: October 2005

WE'RE ON THE WEB! HOMESTREETIMPROVERS.COM

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

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Comparing Apples to Apples

When comparing bids from different contractors, make sure you are comparing equal products.

Check to see whether permits, dumpsters and debris removal are included.

Are you evaluating comparable products? Make sure you understand any differences in the quality level of the products and materials.

Does the contractor use skilled workers with formal training? Do they observe safe work practices, and do they have the proper safety equipment? Does the contractor participate in continuing education?

Is your contractor affiliated with professional organizations such as the BBB, NARI and local chambers of commerce?

Home Street Offers End-of-Season Pricing on Windows

Recent news reports indicate that consumers will experience record-high heating costs this coming winter. Don't suffer another winter with those old, drafty windows.

Drafty windows and doors are a major cause of heat loss in homes. Replacing your windows with high-quality, EnergyStar®-rated products will help reduce your home's energy costs in all seasons.



Choose maintenance-free windows with Low-E coatings, which act as a barrier to ultraviolet rays. Also, choose windows filled with argon gas between the panes, which helps minimize heat transfer and improves thermal performance.



Choosing products with these energy efficient technologies can provide your home with more than twice the energy efficiency of clear glass.



Home Street also installs egress windows. Visit our website to see before-and-after photos of our work, HomeStreetImprovers.com

Sign up for windows with Home Street between October 1 and October 31, 2005, and receive 10% OFF on new, Energy Star®-rated replacement windows for your home*.

(*Minimum three window purchase)
Photos courtesy of Alside.com

The Neglected Garage

Take a drive up and down the alleys of your neighborhood, and what do you notice? A lot of garages that have been sorely neglected—curling or deteriorated shingles, faded or peeling siding, garage doors rotted and in disrepair.

Your garage is as much a part of your real estate investment as your home.

Lessen your maintenance (and keep the city inspector at bay), and consider updating your garage with maintenance-free window, door and siding products from Home Street.

Preparing Your Home for Winter

One of the best ways to prepare your home for the winter weather and high energy costs is to take time now, before winter arrives, to do some simple home maintenance.

The first and most important step in weatherizing a home is to stop air leaks. If air leaks aren't stopped first, other weatherizing measures like insulation will be a waste of effort and money. Stopping air leaks in a home can save as much as 40 percent on your home's heating and cooling costs.

Some typical sources of air leaks include:

- Improperly fitted or un-insulated window or door frames.
- Doors and hatches to the attic.
- Bypass areas around chimneys and electrical conduit.
- Cracked or broken caulk around basement windows.
- Window air conditioners not removed for winter.
- Electrical outlets.
- Bathroom fans

Call Home Street for information on energy efficient replacement products, which can save you money on your energy costs this winter.

Source: www.energy.iastate.edu

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Offices in Northeast Minneapolis & St. Louis Park

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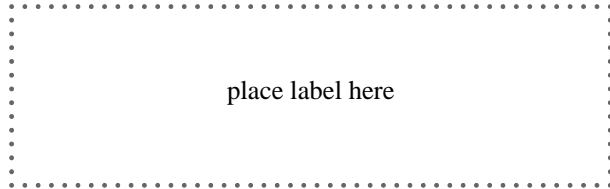
Issue: October 2005



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This Month's Waiting Pet: "Chubby Checkers"

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, "Chubby Checkers" is currently being fostered through Homeward Bound Rescue. Checkers is an adult, male Basset Hound/Lab mix. He is housebroken, crate trained, not a barker, great with kids (ages 8+) and other pets. He was released due to a move, and with a dog this sweet and well behaved he hopes to find his home soon. With high quality dog food, walks, and playtime the weight will come down, and he appreciates any and all walks offered! Checkers is an ideal family companion or good "first" dog for someone. You may email his foster caregiver kadams4545@hotmail.com with questions

about Chubby Checkers. Homeward Bound has been in existence for over 10 years and has rescued over 9,500 dogs, cats, and other animals. They are a private, nonprofit organization concerned with the welfare of dogs and other animals. They are dedicated to the sheltering and fostering of homeless and unwanted animals. Additionally, they are a no-kill rescue and placement program that does not euthanize the animals if they are not adopted. Homeward Bound is participating in rescuing animals left behind by Hurricane Katrina, to find out how you can help, visit www.homewardboundrescue.com. Please spay and neuter your pets. Please consider the time, commitment and money required to responsibly care for a pet before adopting.

Disaster Preparedness —Are You Ready?

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, have you thought about how prepared you are for a disaster or an emergency?

- Do you have a family communication plan?
- Do you have an evacuation plan, including a pre-arranged place to meet in case you are not able to communicate with your family?
- Do you have an emergency supply kit with food, water, medicine and first-aid supplies in case you are not able to get provisions for several days?

If you answered NO to any of these questions, you are not sufficiently prepared for an emergency. Visit www.RedCross.org to read tips on how to be better prepared for an emergency. Disasters and emergencies can arise without warning. Make sure you are prepared by communicating ahead of time with your family on how you will react in an emergency situation.

Thanks to Angie's List Members for Their Reports!

Home Street would like to thank all of its customers who are **Angie's List** members for all of their positive reports on AngiesList.com! We really appreciate all of your positive comments and feedback.

As a result of all of these positive reports, Home Street is experiencing an abundance of new work, which is great, but we want to keep YOU—our existing customer—happy, too. So, if you are planning a home improvement project for this fall, please call as soon as possible to reserve your spot on our installation schedule.

What Is Angie's List

Angie's List is a word-of-mouth network for consumers. It's a growing collection of homeowners' real-life experiences with local service companies. The people who join Angie's List are like you — looking for a way to find trustworthy companies that perform high-quality work. Rather than digging through the phonebook, they check Angie's List to find out what people in their area are saying about the companies they've hired.

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