

SUMMER 2021

REMODELING GUIDE



Sunroom by Glaze Design/Build

WHY CHOOSE DESIGN/BUILD?

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) states, "Design/Build is a concept developed to benefit the remodeling homeowner by providing both quality design and construction services within the same general contracting company. A Design/Build contractor will be able to see your project through from start to finish, keeping design, engineering, and budget in mind."

Design/Build assumes you want to play an active part in the design and construction of your home. During your initial in-home consultation, we ask questions, give you questions to think about, learn as much as we can of your goals, desires, and priorities. We welcome your thoughts and ideas. Some clients know exactly what they want and others rely heavily upon the experience and expertise Design/Build offers. Whatever the level, your involvement guarantees that what you want is achieved.

One firm is accountable for everything from concept to the look of the finished renovation. Plans are completed with your goals in mind—not just the beautiful design possibilities but also your budget. Once you're satisfied with your design, we begin sourcing materials and obtaining estimates of costs.

Design/Build is based on transparency. The more clients understand the process and know what's going on, the better the partnership. Open, honest, and frequent communication is the cornerstone to good partnerships.

This isn't all-inclusive of the benefits afforded by Design/Build but it hopefully provides a broader sense of understanding. With over 20 years of experience, Glaze Design/Build provides a client-focused interest from the beginning to ensure your renovation truly satisfies the full scope of your needs and desires.



Kitchen by Glaze Design/Build

If you are thinking about adding on, transforming your outdoor living space, or any other home improvement, visit us at glazedesignbuild.com or call our office at 828.324.9255! You can also check us out on Houzz.com.



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A SUSTAINABLE & EFFICIENT BACKYARD

As we head into summer, it's a great time to think about better ways to use your yard and expand the livable space in your home. Building a deck, patio, or other outdoor living project is one of the best ways to take advantage of the beautiful summer weather.

Your outdoor living space may not be the first part of your home that comes to mind when considering ways to be more eco-friendly, but there's a lot you can do in the great outdoors to be more sustainable.

Energy-efficient lighting

One of the easiest ways to save money and energy outdoors is by upgrading or replacing your traditional lighting.

Photovoltaic lights absorb sunlight during the day and provide illumination at night. These are a great option for path lights and deck accent lighting. There is a significant difference in the quality of lights on the market. We can help you find the best solution as part of your next remodel.

Instead of leaving floodlights on all night, consider lighting that works on a motion sensor or timer to provide security. For all of your lighting, look for Energy Star-rated fixtures.

It's also a good idea to replace traditional incandescent lighting with energy-efficient LED lighting. LEDs deliver brighter light than traditional bulbs and offer longer life, lower maintenance, and energy savings. LED lights have a higher up-front install cost, but will typically pay for themselves in just a couple of years. An LED bulb produces light 90 percent more efficiently than an incandescent, according to Energy Star.

Opt for energy-efficient appliances

If your outdoor living space includes an outdoor kitchen, efficient appliances can make a big difference in your energy consumption. The considerations for choosing an efficient outdoor appliance are similar to the factors when choosing them for your indoor kitchen.



Refrigerators and freezers are the biggest users of electricity in a kitchen. Refrigerators in the range of 16 to 20 cubic feet are the most efficient. While brands and models vary, a simple rule of thumb is that the bigger the unit, the more energy it will use. You can probably get by with a small fridge in an outdoor kitchen, so keep that in mind. Some features, like icemakers, will also add to the operating cost.

If your outdoor appliances are not used on a regular basis, consider unplugging them during the down times to save on passive energy costs. (Most appliances draw energy even when they're not in use.)

Water-conserving fixtures

For any outdoor water fixtures, such as an outdoor shower or faucets, you want to use the same strategies you would to conserve water indoors. Consider low-flow showerheads and faucets, and be sure to repair leaky fixtures to reduce water usage. WaterSense labeled showerheads, faucets and fixtures use at least 20 percent less water than older models—and many can cut usage almost in half.

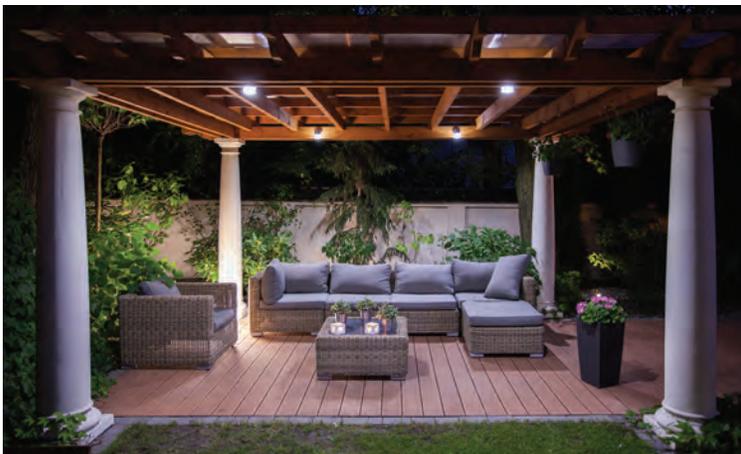
Rethink other water features

Have a pool, fountain, or other water features? There are several actions you can take to lower your energy and water usage here as well. Regularly covering your pool and using a solar blanket will reduce heating (and cleaning) costs.

An energy-efficient pool pump and filtration system, while costing more on the front end, can save you thousands of dollars in the long run. For smaller water fountains or ponds, a solar-powered or hybrid pump offers a more eco-friendly solution.

Incorporate shade

Planting trees in your yard offers multiple benefits. The shade will make your outdoor living space more enjoyable, and require less usage of ceiling fans or air conditioning in a sunroom or porch. Well-developed trees offer the dual benefit of helping block sunlight and heat from your home which further reduces energy costs. Other shade solutions, such as awnings or pergolas, can also help achieve those goals during the hot summer.



ADDING TECH TO YOUR KITCHEN

If a kitchen remodel is in your plans this year, you'll want to be sure to check out some of the latest improvements in appliances.

Appliance manufacturers have made great strides in technology and energy efficiency over the last decade. If your appliances are more than a few years old, replacing them can make a significant impact on not only your energy



consumption and utility bills, but also on the way you live your life.

Connected appliances can bring a new level of convenience to your home: turn on the oven with your voice, monitor your refrigerator and food quality remotely, or schedule a new order of dishwasher pods. Internet-connected appliances can make it easier to diagnose problems with the units as well as track energy usage. At its simplest level, you can use voice control devices like Amazon Echo or Google Home to set timers and access recipes. Many new appliances will sync with these devices as well.

And when it comes to energy, kitchen appliances alone can be responsible for more than 30 percent of home energy consumption. Appliances that are more efficient may have a higher price tag, but could end up saving you money down the road in lower operating costs.

Appliance technology is changing constantly. We can help you make the right choices for your family!



Touchless faucets

Besides appliances, advances in faucets and fixtures are changing the way we use our kitchens. With touchless faucets, there's no need to touch the handles when you've been cutting chicken or kneading sourdough.

Sensors on the faucets, usually at the base and sometimes on the spout, will start and stop with a wave of your hand or even a dish. These aren't like those horrible faucets we've all used in public bathrooms that can be endlessly frustrating. The newest faucets rely on advanced infrared technology and are easy to customize.

Even more exciting are the latest voice-activated models. Turn them off and on with a simple command or even set the water temperature or ask it to produce a certain amount of water for baking or cooking.

The pros and cons of engineered wood floors

Engineered wood floors can be a great choice for your next remodel. It is made up of several layers of ply, topped with a solid wood veneer, usually pre-finished. There are benefits and drawbacks to engineered wood products, so let's explore some of them.

Pros

Aesthetics – Engineered woods are an attractive option that mimics the look of solid wood. Most likely, if there's a species of wood you want for flooring there is an engineered version and any people can't tell the difference between them.

Stability & moisture resistance – For areas that may occasionally have some moisture, engineered wood is more resistant than products like solid wood or linoleum. It is less likely to shift, contract/expand, or warp due to high humidity or temperature changes. It's not waterproof, so if that's a concern, consider tile or some vinyl and laminate options.

Wide planks available – In order to meet sustainable harvesting goals, most solid wood planks are not available in widths of more than 5 inches. Engineered wood gives the look of classic wide plank flooring, and probably the best way to do so without using reclaimed wood.



Cons

Harder to refinish – The thinner layer of wood veneer means that if the wood is damaged or scratched, it is more difficult to sand and refinish than solid wood floors. If this is something you are worried about, look for a thicker wear layer or consider non-wood products.

Off-gassing – Some engineered wood products are made with adhesives, resins, and other chemicals that can cause off-gassing of potentially harmful materials. We can help you figure out which could cause problems.

Price – Engineered wood is less expensive than solid wood floors, but it is more expensive to install and care for than many other flooring options.



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Experience. Integrity. Passion.

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Designing a Productive Home Office

Maybe you were thrown into working at home because of the pandemic, or maybe you've been doing it for years. Many will continue to work at home at least part-time as businesses figure out how to move forward. Whatever the reason, working at home can offer several benefits—less time wasted commuting, more flexibility and productivity.

To get the most of working from home, you'll want to create a workspace that allows you to be as productive as possible. Perhaps that means an addition to make room for your growing home business, or simply a redesign of your existing space. We're ready to help you tackle whatever you need from a home office and find the best solution.

Here are six tips for creating your best home office.

1. Location, location, location

The best home office is one that will help you avoid distractions, but also provide a comfortable setting. Finding (or creating) a space that allows you to close a door will give you the necessary privacy for calls or Zoom meetings. Think a little-used guest room or dining room, or an unfinished basement that may fit your needs. Why not update or finish the area to create a workspace?

A dedicated office space helps you associate "work time". If you're going to need to meet with clients in person, be sure the office has or is near an outside entrance.

2. Embrace natural light

A key part of selecting the location of your new home office is natural light. Research shows that company offices with more natural light enjoy greater productivity. A large window will also give you something to look at besides your computer. (If a window isn't an option, consider a nice picture so you're not staring at a blank wall.)

3. Install sufficient lighting

Even with plenty of natural light, good ambient lighting will help reduce eye strain, headaches, and other problems. Position your desk and computer to avoid glare but offer sufficient task lighting. Consider installing LED lighting. LED lights aren't as harsh as fluorescent bulbs, use less energy than other types of lighting, and have a very long life.



Dining Room and Office Area by Glaze Design/Build

4. Efficient storage

Get creative with your storage. Inset cubbies, racks, or floating shelves on the wall can help save valuable floor and desk space. Built-in cabinets will hide printers and other peripherals that otherwise will clutter up the space. Consider a closet you can outfit with shelves to minimize the space you use in the room.

5. Think ergonomics

Stop and think about how you use an office. The layout needs to reflect that. Set up your desk or table so that your back and neck are straight and your arms are parallel to the desk. Adjust the chair height so your feet are flat on the floor (and while we're at it, invest in a good chair). Make sure the whole arrangement is set up so you don't have to lean over, slouch, or crane your neck to work.

6. Set rules

Not a design tip, per se, but one for your sanity. It's important to set expectations with yourself, your supervisor, and your family. Have set "office hours" that are your normal work time and try to stay away from your home office outside those hours. At the same time, make it clear to everyone that your work time is just that, work time. If at all possible, have them treat the situation just like they would if you were at the office.