A do-it-yourself mentality has taken hold in millions of households across the globe. Popular television channels like HGTV and DIY Network as well as accessible home improvement content on apps like YouTube has inspired many homeowners to tackle renovation projects around their homes. Taking such initiative is admirable, though it also can prove costly if homeowners end up biting off more than they can chew. Home improvement videos and television shows have a tendency to oversimplify renovation projects, potentially giving homeowners a false sense of confidence in their DIY abilities. A concerted effort on the part of homeowners to determine if it’s best to renovate on their own or hire a professional should always be the first step of any renovation project. No two homeowners are the same, but the following three questions can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best option.

1. **Can I afford to DIY?**
   Professional home improvement projects are costly for a variety of reasons. Materials can be costly, but so are the tools and labor necessary to do the job right. Homeowners may not have the tools necessary to complete complicated projects. Specialty tools can be expensive to purchase or even rent, and the cost of acquiring such tools should be included in any DIY project cost estimates. Labor also factors heavily into professional projects, and for good reason. Talented contractors have unique skills that have been developed and perfected over many years. Those skills can ensure projects are completed quickly and correctly. Labor may seem costly, but such costs may ultimately prove to be a bargain compared to the cost of fixing DIY mistakes. Projects that are minor in scope and don’t require the use of potentially costly specialty tools may be better suited for weekend warriors than more complicated renovations.

2. **Do I have the time?**
   Homeowners must determine how much time they have to complete a project before deciding to do it themselves. No one wants to spend months staring at an unfinished renovation project. Homeowners who are already pressed for time may not be able to complete projects in a timely fashion, which can make homes less comfortable and even less safe.

3. **Can I pull this off?**
   DIY projects can instill homeowners with a sense of pride in their homes, but it’s imperative that homeowners considering the DIY option conduct an honest assessment of their skills. A lack of renovation experience does not necessarily mean a homeowner cannot successfully complete a DIY project. But in such instances, it may be best to start with small, straightforward projects and then gradually move up to bigger, more complicated projects as skills are fine tuned. And homeowners who have never been at their best with a hammer in hand should not be ashamed to leave the work to the professionals. Television shows and online tutorials can make renovations appear easier than they actually are. Homeowners considering DIY renovations can ask themselves a handful of questions to determine if they’re ready for the challenge of renovating their homes on their own.
Our Customers Are Our First Priority

Our Pledge...
Our Customers are our first priority. Reese Marshall is here to serve you with your heating and cooling needs. We Pledge to constantly reaffirm this with our actions, which we have built our reputation on.

We Offer...
• Free estimates for all installations
• Automatic delivery with a guarantee
• 24-hour emergency service, 365 days a year
• A variety of budget and burner service plans
• People who care about providing quality service

Our Area of Service...
Reese-Marshall Co. Inc.’s office and storage facility is located on County Road 32, in Norwich. Our service area extends to Norwich and the following areas:
- Oxford - McDonough - Guilford - Preston
- Mt. Upton - Gilbertsville - Morris
- South New Berlin - New Berlin - Edmeston
- South Edmeston - West Edmeston - Pittsfield
- Sherburne - North Norwich - Earlville - Columbus Smyrna
- Otselic - South Otselic - Pitcher - Plymouth
- Sidney - Bainbridge

Quality Products...
Reese-Marshall Co. Inc. carries a full line of quality fuels including No. 2 Fuel Oil, Diesel, Kerosene, Gasoline and Propane Gas.

Our Burner Service Department is fully equipped to handle any repair or installation.
Exploring different backyard structures

Designing an ideal backyard space requires forethought and an eye for style. Knowing which features to include in a yard often boils down to what homeowners want to achieve in the space. Will it be a relaxing oasis or a central entertaining focal point? People often look to various structures to add height and visual interest to outdoor spaces. Homeowners will likely come across structures like arbors, gazebos, pergolas, and even trellises as they wade through the variety of features they can incorporate into backyard plans. Each of these structures can add appeal, but they also can offer shelter from the sun and privacy when enjoying the yard. There are significant differences between each structure, so here’s an in-depth look at what sets them apart.

- **Arbor:** An arbor is one of the more simple garden structures. It is usually a frame that is arched or square-cornered. Most homeowners use it as an entryway to a garden or even the front of the home. Those with green thumbs may cover the arbor with climbing and trailing plants. The Spruce says arbors date back to early Egyptian and Roman gardens and were used throughout Europe by the late 16th century.

- **Pergola:** The words arbor and pergola are often used interchangeably, but to suggest the two structures are the same would not be accurate. Pergolas date from the Italian word “pergula,” which means “projection.” Pergolas were once projected from exterior walls and supported on one side by pillars or columns. Today, arbors are usually freestanding units with two or four posts. Pergolas may be connected on one side to a home or another structure. Some are freestanding units supported by four posts. Pergolas tend to be larger and offer more privacy and shade than arbors.

- **Gazebo:** Gazebos are more defined garden buildings, states the contractor referral site Network. Gazebos are freestanding units that can be built in various shapes. Some are octagonal, others are square. Like a pergola, a gazebo is supported by columns and may have low railings or built-in benches. Gazebos also may have a more solid roof than arbors or pergolas, providing sun and other weather protection. The roof may have added architectural appeal, like a cupola.

- **Trellis:** A trellis is a simple, geometrically-shaped structure that provides a surface for climbing plants. A trellis also may support fruit-bearing trees. Trellis work may be used in conjunction with an arbor or pergola, or be installed on fencing. Incorporating structures into backyard designs can provide functionality and appeal. SH212659
These days, home trends are about more than good design and aesthetics — they’re about creating spaces that reflect our values and are more comfortable and enjoyable to live in. From net-zero and net-positive construction to tiny minimalist homes, trends are all about your family’s lifestyle.

Whether you’re shopping for a new home, renovating your own or creating a new build from scratch, here are some of the biggest trends you need to know for inspiration.

**Sustainable design:** This one has been popular for a long time, but green design has evolved to be about much more than energy-efficient appliances and LED light bulbs. Now, it’s all about making sure everything in your home reduces your carbon footprint and minimizes any impact on the environment.

To try the trend yourself, think big and get creative — install solar panels on your roof, choose building materials that don’t require deforestation and upcycle old furniture for decorative elements instead of buying new.

**Disaster resiliency:** Climate change affects us in so many negative ways, and one of the top concerns is the increase in natural disasters. From wildfires that last for months to major floods that affect entire cities, we now need to prepare for the worst when building our homes.

Switching to disaster-resilient materials is an important first step. Many builders now prefer to use stronger, more energy-efficient materials like insulated concrete forms (ICFs) instead of more traditional materials like wood. For example, Nudura ICFs can withstand winds of up to 250 miles per hour (equivalent to an F4 tornado) and offer a fire protection rating of up to four hours.

**Outdoor living:** Many of us are now choosing to forgo getting a cottage or summer home and recreate the experience in our own backyards. This trend helps you make the most of your existing space and take full advantage of
your yard or patio during the summer months. You can design a full living space outside, complete with an outdoor television and comfy couches, as well as a kitchen and refrigerator for entertaining. Consider adding a fireplace or firepit to keep warm during cool summer nights and enjoy the outdoors through spring, fall and even winter if you’re brave.

**Home automation:** This is another longstanding trend that shows no signs of slowing down. It has also evolved to encompass more of the home to make life even more comfortable and convenient. From an oven that can be turned on remotely to preheat, to skylights that can open and close automatically to create the perfect ambient temperature, there are more ways than ever to integrate smart home technology into your living space.

You can start small with voice assistant and smart light bulbs and work your way up to a total smart home system that includes home security, temperature controls and all your electronic devices.

**Customization:** You don’t have to settle for what mass manufacturers decide to build, or what works for everyone else. Creating a home that’s as unique as you are is the latest trend, with custom-built storage and personalized architectural features to make your space stand out.

You can even go as far as building a custom home that’s suited to your family. Older home demolitions and purchasing land-only properties is becoming more common, allowing you to work with an architect to create exactly what you want with a new build.
1) NORTH NORWICH TRANSFER STATION
   – 6701 NYS Hwy 12, Norwich
   M 8–noon, T-Sat 8–4

2) BRISBEN TRANSFER STATION
   – 177 Coutermarch Rd., Greene
   M 8–noon, T-Sat 8–4

3) PHARSALIA LANDFILL
   – 439 CR 47, Norwich
   M–F 8–4, Sat 8–noon

Watch for upcoming recycling programs at the landfill and transfer stations.

For all recycling and trash disposal questions
call 607-337-1792.
Media rooms now edge out home theaters

Not so long ago many homeowners were racing to outfit their homes with home theater spaces. If spaces allowed, homeowners would transform rooms into dark, theater-like retreats, complete with large screens, surround sound and reclined seating. Interest in such spaces has waned in recent years, with many homeowners opting for media rooms instead. So what is the difference between these spaces? According to HGTV, a home theater is a room designed to replicate the experience of the cinema. A media room is a multipurpose space where people can gather to enjoy any type of media, from TV to music to gaming systems. Home theaters tend to limit activity to watching movies. However, homeowners interested in more versatile paces may find media rooms are much more practical.

A media room is an option for families who want a theater experience in common areas or open-concept living spaces. Media rooms frequently feature comfortable, customizable seating, rather than rows of seats facing the screen that are standard in home theaters. Guests can converse in media rooms while enjoying a show, streaming music or gaming. Various design layouts are possible, including furniture that conceals electronics so the media room can be an entertainment lounge one minute and a theater the next. Because media rooms are not as isolated as home theaters, the acoustics in such rooms may be compromised. That’s a disadvantage for homeowners who have invested heavily in sound systems for their media devices. Sound from media rooms also may filter out and disturb others in different rooms of the house. However, fluffy sofas, drapery and carpeting can absorb sound and keep it in the room.

Homeowners who like to entertain while watching or listening to media may prefer the flexibility of media rooms, which make it easy to stream movies and music and play games. TF17C559

Don’t Buy a Pole Barn Package

Until You’ve Contacted Us!

We Offer Competitive Pricing and Guarantee Satisfaction.

POLE BARN PACKAGE

24' X 32’ X 10’ POST FRAME PACKAGE:

Call for current pricing

Call Today for Your FREE Quote!

POLE BARN PACKAGE

Designed to meet Your Needs

• MATERIAL PACKAGE
  • Pre-Engineered Wood Trusses (6/12 Pitch, 4' O.C.)
  • 4-12 x 6-107 Structural Glulam 3 Ply Eave Posts (8’ O.C.)
  • 4-12 x 6-107 Structural Glulam 3 Ply Gable Posts (10’ O.C.)
  • 2 x 4 Treated Skirt Boards (1 Row)
  • 2 x 4 Wall Girts (24’ O.C) and Roof Purlins (24’ O.C.)
  • 6 x 10 Double Top Girt Tejas Carrier
  • 1/4” HW Del. Bubl. Btl. Dist. Full Temp Shield Insulation on Roof
  • Rino-Extruded I Traditional Steel Siding
  • Ivy Extruded II Traditional Steel Roof
  • One Bag of Concrete Mix Per Post Hole

• DOORS & WINDOWS
  • Two Creppy 9 x 8 4300 Series Ins. overhead Door Ins. Stds
  • One 3’ 9’ Lt Entry Door

• 12’ OVERHANG ON ALL SIDES W/ VENTED ALUM. SOFFIT

• FASTENERS
  • 1 1/2 inch Screw for Steel Wall, Roof Panels
  • 1 3/8 in. Ledger Lock Screw for Truss Carrier
  • 1 5/8 in. Galv. Pole Barn Nails for Skirt Board
  • Galvanized Steel Framing Nails

• DETAILED BUILDING PLANS

Buderus

Thermo Pride

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

PO Box 96, Gilbertsville, NY 13776 607-783-2289 www.gilbertph.com

RIELO BURNERS

Montain Top Enterprises

2726 State Hwy. 7, Bainbridge, NY (Located Between Rte. 8, Sidney and Bainbridge, NY) 607-967-4877 www.metaltroofingandmetal siding.com
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED IN OXFORD SINCE 1989
WE ARE YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT HEADQUARTERS

• VINYL FENCE PANELS • ALUMINUM FENCE PANELS

• VINYL RAILING SECTIONS • ALUMINUM RAILING SECTIONS

• COMPOSITE DECKING • POLY DECKING

• INSTALLED RETRACTABLE AWNINGS • VINYL PERGOLAS

• CARPORTS • GARAGES • UTILITY • AGRICULTURE

116 WARN POND RD., OXFORD - CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 607-843-9834
Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. 10 am-5 pm; Thurs. 10 am-6 pm; Saturday 9 am-1 pm
Outdoor Infrared Heating
Infratech outdoor infrared heating systems are made from recyclable materials and operate with zero greenhouse emissions, odors or ultraviolet light.

CAST IRON BEAUTY
That is Built To Last!
- Heat up to 1,800 Sq. Ft.
- Ultra Low Emission Hybrid-Fyre™ Technology
- Accepts 20" Wood
- Up To 10 Hour Burn Time
- GreenStart™ Igniter Option

Rockport®
Cast Iron Wood Stove

emissions: 0.80 gr/hr
burn times up to: 10 hours
firebox size: 2.15 cu. ft.
efficiency: 78.4%

Turn Your Old Inefficient Fireplace into a Beautiful Source of Heat
Introducing the G16 Gas Inset, The Insert That Looks Like a Fireplace!
- Huge Fireviewing Area
- No Louvers or Grills
- Standard Fan and Remote
- Standard Accent Light
- Choice of Three Burner Looks
- Featuring the Energy Efficient GreenSmart™ System

WPPO Pizza Oven
Karma Wood/Pellet Ovens
See it in stock now
woodpelletpizzaoven.com

WITH BLAZE OUTDOOR PRODUCTS,
BUY YOUR LAST GRILL FIRST
Blaze Outdoor Products offers an unbeatable Lifetime warranty!
Products Include:
All Gas Grills, Gas Griddle, all Side Burners, all Power burners and the Aluminum Kamado

UP TO $250 OFF
SUNAIR® OR SUNTUBE® MODEL
LATERAL ARM SUNAIR
With this coupon. Must submit at time of order. Not valid with other offers or previous sales. Offer available on installed lateral arm awnings only purchased at regular price. Expires 7-30-21.

COUNTRYSIDE & CHIMNEY
Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. 10 am-5 pm; Thurs. 10 am-6 pm; Saturday 9 am-1 pm
www.countrystideoxford.com

Follow Us on Facebook for Recipes & Specials
A fresh glass of water can be just the thing to quench your thirst on a hot summer day. Water is vital to sustain life and communities go to great lengths to ensure drinking water is clean. But sometimes water can become contaminated and adversely affect public health.

According to the Water Quality Association, some common waterborne contaminants include aluminum, ammonia, copper, lead, mercury, and uranium. The WQA notes that, while people can become very sick from contaminated water, many people never recognize their water is contaminated until members of their community begin to get sick. Some people suffer from acute effects of contaminated water that appear within hours of consuming a contaminant. In such instances, the WQA notes that the human body can often fight off the contaminants in a similar way that it fights off germs and the person won’t have any permanent side effects. However, people with weakened immune systems may become seriously or gravely ill after such exposure. Chronic effects, which include cancer, liver or kidney problems, or reproductive difficulties, result after the consumption of contaminated water over a period of many years.

Water supplies are routinely inspected and treated in many parts of the world to ensure they’re safe for human consumption. However, such measures are not fail-safe. The WQA notes that a human’s senses are his or her first diagnostic tool in regard to detecting contaminated water. Though contaminated water is not always detectable to human senses, the following are some signs that may indicate a water supply is contaminated.

**DISCOLORATION**
The WQA notes that water that is red, orange, yellow, brown, or cloudy may indicate the presence of iron, rust or other contaminants in household plumbing. Tannins from decaying vegetation and leaves also can contribute to discolored water that appears yellow or has a brownish hue.
FOUL SMELL AND TASTE
Water that smells or tastes like a rotten egg or sulfur may indicate the presence of hydrogen sulfide, which may be a byproduct of a certain type of bacteria present in the water. Bacteria can grow in drains, water heaters, wells, or on the inside of pipes, so a professional inspection may be necessary.
Decaying organic matter in plumbing or the water source can give water a musty, earthy taste.
The WQA notes that chlorine is used to disinfect water to make it safe during the treatment process. However, the smell and taste of chlorine may indicate the water is unsafe to consume.

STAINING
Blue-green water or blue-green stains are likely indicative of the corrosion of copper within household plumbing. Other stains may be yellow, tan, brown, black, orange, or red, and these stains may indicate the presence of other metals in the water. Water treatment providers can help address this issue, which can make water unhealthy to consume and also adversely affect plumbing fixtures.
Contaminated water is not always identifiable to the senses. Homeowners who suspect their water has been contaminated are urged to contact their local water utility. TF208186
The average timelines for popular renovation projects

Home renovation projects are significant undertakings. Working with skilled and experienced contractors can ensure projects go smoothly and are completed promptly. Timing is a big consideration for homeowners as they begin renovating their homes, and the home improvement experts at HomeAdvisor note that the following are some general timelines for popular renovation projects.

- **Home addition**: Short of a full-scale demolition and rebuild, home additions are the most time-consuming projects homeowners can undertake. HomeAdvisor notes that its survey of customers who recently completed home addition projects reported that the average time from start to finish was between three and four months. Certain variables, including the scale of the project and the local permits process, can extend the time it takes to complete a home addition.
- **Kitchen remodel**: Scale is a big factor to consider when estimating the time it takes to complete various home improvement projects, and kitchen remodels are no exception. Some HomeAdvisor users reported projects taking as long as four months, though the average time reported was roughly six weeks. Projects that require major overhauls like rearranging the plumbing and moving walls will likely take longer than more

---

**WEBSTER’S PAVING**

- Blacktop
- Stone & Oil
- Sealing
- Patching

**COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL**

(607) 432-8550
(607) 334-4849

---

**UPSTATE TOOL & EQUIPMENT LLC**

See Us for All Your Rental Needs!

**Welder & Cutting Equipment**

- Forced Air Multi-fuel Heater 175,000 BTU

**Heaters**

- 1/2" Hammer Drill 28V
- Demo Saw
- Power Broom
- Air Jack Hammer
- Electric Jack Hammer (w/bits)
- Paint Sprayer

**Power Tools**

- Generator
- Pressure Washer
- 10" Tile Saw
- 2" Sump Pump
- Appliance Hand Truck
- Post Hole Drill
- Walk Behind Brush Hog
- Log Splitter
- Walk Behind Tiller
- Trencher Earth Saw
- Floor Sander
- Floor Edger

**Power Equipment**

- Skid Steers
- Backhoes
- Attachments
- Dozers
- Excavators
- Rollers
- Loaders
- Lifts
- Scrapers
- Off Road Trucks
- Challenger Tractors & Attachments
- Trailers & Car Dollies

---

**W&B Powerwashing LLC**

607-316-2337
will.tyrrell@yahoo.com

We Can Clean:
- Vinyl, Aluminum, Wood Siding/Log Homes, Decks & Patios.

We Can Remove:
- Mold, Mildew, Algae, Pollen, Sap, Gum, Dirt & Grime.

We Can Stain or Paint:
- Decks, Porches, Windows/Doors, Trim.

We Are: Professionally Equipped and Fully Insured.

**TYRRELL’S tents & rentals llc**

Party Tents, Tables, Chairs, Coolers

607-316-2337
Will.Tyrrell@yahoo.com
cosmetic projects that are limited to replacing cabinets and countertops.

- **Bathroom remodel:** More than 1,000 homeowners surveyed by HomeAdvisor reported that bathroom remodels took about 4.5 weeks from start to finish. Small-scale remodels that focus on painting the walls a fresh color and replacing existing tiles can be completed in less than two weeks. But like with kitchen remodels, bathroom remodels that involve replacing plumbing fixtures and removing walls figure to take much longer than that.

- **Siding installation:** HomeAdvisor users report that new siding projects take roughly two weeks from start to finish. That estimate is the same regardless of which materials homeowners are replacing and installing.

- **Replacement windows:** Homeowners who want to replace all the windows in their home can expect such a project to take roughly three weeks. HomeAdvisor notes that such a timeline need not concern homeowners worried that they will be forced to brave the elements during the length of the project. Much of a contractors’ time during a window replacement project will be spent on upfront measuring and then ensuring a tight fit once the windows have been installed. SH212667
Home improvement projects can help homeowners transform their homes. Such projects are costly, but many homeowners save money by doing some, if not all, of the work themselves. The Electrical Safety Foundation International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety, recommends that homeowners leave electrical work to the professionals. Licensed electricians are well-trained, whereas homeowners may not be skilled enough to avoid accidents or injuries, which can prove fatal when working with electricity.

Homeowners who take the do-it-yourself route with electrical work should consider these safety tips, courtesy of the ESFI, before beginning a home electrical project:

- Learn your home electrical system. Home electrical systems may include power lines, electric meters, service panels, subpanels, wiring, and more. These systems are complex, and homeowners who intend to do some DIY electrical work should familiarize themselves with their home electrical systems prior to beginning any work. The ESFI notes that knowledge of their home electrical systems can help homeowners more safely navigate them and make maintenance easier.

- Honestly assess your skills. An honest assessment of skills is absolutely necessary prior to working on an electrical system. According to the National Safety Council, injuries relating to electrical incidents typically fall into one of four categories: electrical shock, electrocution, falls, and burns. Each of these injuries is significant. For example, electrical shock, which occurs when electrical current passes over or through a person’s body, involves burns, abnormal heart rhythm and unconsciousness. Given the potential for serious injury, the ESFI urges homeowners to make an honest assessment of their
skills before they begin working on their hot electrical systems. Little or no experience working with electric systems should be considered a significant hurdle to any DIY project. 

- Turn the power off: essential that the power to the circuit that will be worked on be turned off. This can be accomplished by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel. Similarly, when working on appliances or lamps, make sure the products are unplugged prior to working on them.

- Do not touch plumbing or gas pipes when doing electrical work. The experts at the Indiana Electric Cooperative note that the risk for electrocution is significant when water comes in contact with electricity. It’s imperative that homeowners do not touch plumbing and gas pipes when performing a DIY electrical project. Professionals know how to work around such pipes while minimizing their risk for electric shock or worse, and homeowners must familiarize themselves with the techniques professionals rely on to stay safe if they intend to begin DIY electrical projects. Homeowners are best served by leaving electrical work to the professionals. However, those who insist on doing such work themselves should do their homework and get to know their systems and safety protocols prior to beginning a project. 

607- 336-1400
UNLOCK THE MONEY IN YOUR HOME with a HOME EQUITY LOAN from SFCU.

LET US BE THE KEY TO A LINE OF CREDIT WHENEVER YOU NEED IT.

Home Improvements • Vacation • Vehicle • College • Life Events

APPLY TODAY at any branch location
Amsterdam (coming soon) • Bainbridge • Delhi • Greene
Hancock • Norwich • Oneonta • Sidney • Walton

visit us online at sfcuonline.org or call 877-642-7328

Federally insured by NCUA