



REMODELING. NEW CONSTRUCTION. INSURANCE RESTORATION. HANDY MAN REPAIRS.

(770) 509-7498 • INFO@TOTALLYDEPENDABLE.COM

In this issue: Homeowner Tips from Remodeling Professionals

- Remodeling Feature: Hardscapes to *Dreamscapes*
- New Products Available! ProClosets Organizing Systems & RAILCRAFT Handrails
- Going "Green"... Our Efforts Toward Compliance
- Vendor Spotlight: MultiStone Enterprises

Celebrating Summer!
Hot New Products & Industry Tips

Vol. 5, Issue 2



Now nearly halfway through another year, we welcome the balmy, carefree existence that is "Summer". We open our windows, fire up our grills, relax and unwind on our porches and decks while watching children frolic in our pools and well kept lawns.

If you don't have a beautiful **Deck or Screened Porch**, you're thinking about it; if you do, you're thinking about making some **improvements to or maintaining your exterior structure**. The warmer months are the ideal time to perform home renovations; and, we are full swing into our busy season.

To continually improve our clients' ability to maximize value from their renovation, this newsletter informs about our efforts toward "Green" remodeling, all about stone (from our valued vendor, MultiStone) and other tips and trends gaining a good bit of buzz in industry forums this year.

Considering a **Kitchen Renovation**? *Qualified Remodeler's "Kitchen Couture" Article* (May, 2007) provides helpful tips about creating a "wish list" and selecting the best materials to match your new space.

You will also learn our latest news. This year, we received (2) New Awards! We have completed a variety of renovations, some fairly extensive. See our "**New Completed Projects**"...don't forget to look for your own...

Remodeling Feature...

Exterior "Dreamscapes" Beautiful exteriors are a necessity in warm weather and have become a worthy investment. In a soft housing market, buyers place more importance on curb appeal and exterior spaces. Sellers providing exterior selling points recoup much higher value. **Visit the "Porches & Decks" Project Gallery page on our web site to view some of the Exterior Renovations we have recently completed...**

"UNDERDECK" / PATIO RENOVATION





Family Owned & Operated Since 1987

New! Product Lines...

ProClosets Organizing Systems & ***RAILCRAFT*** Innovative Railing Systems

Shop with Totally Dependable! Regardless of whether you're in the throws of a renovation project, we now offer two great new product lines providing higher quality & less cost than most retail brands.

ProClosets Systems & RAILCRAFT handrails are only available through authorized distributors.

High-quality, semi-custom cabinetry (vanities, etc) & hardware are also available by special order.

Contact Us! 770-509-7498 info@totallydependable.com for pricing / product info.

Save \$250!

on ProClosets Organizing Systems

High-quality, professional-grade custom storage systems for your **Pantry, Laundry, Bedrooms, Garage.**

Constructed 100% of 3/4" melamine with baked-on laminate for high durability.

7 Hardware & Melamine Finishes, 16 Specialty Drawer Hardware Styles available.

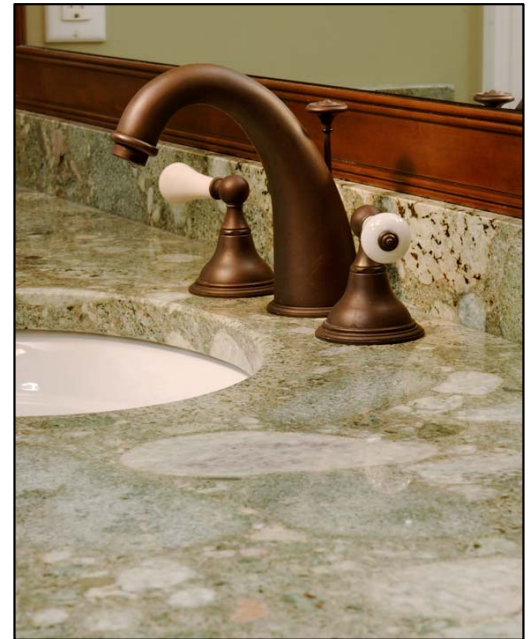
***Designed for you -
Installed by Professionals.***

Offer Expires: August 30, 2007. Applied to 1st order of \$2,500 or more.

Vendor Spotlight: MultiStone USA

We love sourcing our stone work (countertops, flooring, etc.) to MultiStone located in Atlanta. Stacey Haslam has put together some of the market's top trends & tips...

"Granite, quartz, marble, soapstone, limestone - today's countertop options are limitless! Nothing compares to the beauty and character of natural stone. There are endless colors and patterns to choose from and with any natural product, no two slabs are exactly the same, so every surface is unique and distinctive. Today natural stone is recognized as a "durable work of art" and more and more kitchens are designed with the countertops becoming the centerpiece and focus of the room. Cabinet finishes, wall colors, floor coverings and backsplashes are all selected to enhance and compliment the stone. Either granite or quartz is the perfect choice for your kitchen, as nothing compares in strength and durability, with relatively little maintenance. From a price point, granite tends to be more competitively priced while quartz will generally be a little more expensive. Marble is a great option for your bathroom, while soapstone or limestone works beautifully for accent work (fireplaces, islands, decorative pieces). We are, however, seeing a trend to use soapstone or limestone in kitchens and bathrooms when homeowners prefer a weathered, patina look. As these products age, they will reflect their usage in a unique and dramatic way. There are some equally dramatic "antiqued" stones, which have a somewhat "leathery" appearance for homeowners who want the aged look right away! As for sinks, the use of stainless steel is giving way to some of the newer options, such as copper and granite-composite materials. Farmhouse sinks are gaining in popularity as well. Faucets remain streamlined with a single faucet hole being preferred over multiple holes. The "less is more" approach seems to be the current trend in edges as well, with the sleek "eased" edge making a strong comeback. Maintenance for natural stone is a breeze! There are just a few limitations on cleaning products and sealing is needed only once or twice a year.



MultiStone USA brings many years of experience to the granite industry. Our quality and expertise allow us to offer a lifetime guarantee on our stone. From your initial contact with your salesperson, Stacey Haslam, to the installation of your finished countertops, you will find talent, professionalism, commitment to quality and customer service that will make the entire process an exciting and unique experience for you. Stacey stays abreast of the current market trends and is aware of newest materials available so she always provides fresh design ideas.

Going "Green"...

Green remodeling is one of the fastest growing markets within the remodeling industry to date. Every major material manufacturer now offers environmentally-safe and/or energy-efficient products and "green" construction is a hot topic in every media available. Locally, *Earthcraft* has recently begun to certify "green" builders; and, this fall, NARI will begin a similar program for the remodeling industry. While not all renovations are certified as earth-friendly, our focus is to promote environmentally-sound building and finishes as much as possible.

This fall, we plan to offer Green-certified remodeling (which involves environmental inspections). Until then, know that our efforts toward compliance are in place.

Green Tip: Tankless water heaters are a valuable investment to maintain consistent water temperature while minimizing waste (We're currently using *Rinnai Smart Technology water heaters* in on-going interior renovations. This line also includes ductless heaters. Read more about our Green efforts on our "Downloads" Page at www.totallydependable.com. Check our Downloads web page often for the latest **Company Updates & Industry News**, including "Green" Remodeling.



R98i ASME

Our efforts toward compliance

Step 1: Creating an "Envelope" Think of your home as a "package". When you wrap a package, you provide a safe enclosure covering all seals, gaps, and cracks that will protect the contents from naturally-occurring mishaps and the effects of time. During renovations affecting exterior walls, we must first prepare our "package" for its protective wrapping. *OSB sheathing* is a framing material that provides further reinforcement to framing beams. Like tissue paper insulates your contents, we wrap your home/renovated area with a *house wrap* (such as Tyvek® or other). Both layers during the framing process work to create a more sturdy shell that also **improves your home's heating/cooling efficiency**.

We then create an "envelope" around your home from the highest ceiling to the lowest elevation encapsulating all conditioned space – filling all holes, sealing all window gaps/cracks/openings.

Step 2: Install Energy-Efficient Systems, Fixtures, & Appliances

Using some of the following can provide significant benefits to lower energy costs and/or improve air quality:

- **New HVAC systems** (new, larger systems are more efficient; plus, adding a filter can reduce allergens)
- **Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)**
- **Low-E Windows**
- **Energy-efficient/Energy Star® appliances**
- **Vent exhaust fans to the exterior and install vapor barriers under the concrete slab**
- **Alternative wood materials** (think composites like Trex® or renewable resources, such as Ipe Brazilian walnut, cork, bamboo, or stone).

Need more incentive to "Go Green"? Receive a tax credit! At www.energystar.gov / (using the "Tax Credit Under the Energy Bill" link, "tax credits are available for many types of home improvements including adding insulation, replacement windows, and certain high efficiency heating and cooling equipment". See the website for further information.

Web Updates...

- **New Downloads Web Page &**
- **New Completed Projects!** Visit our [Project Gallery](#) regularly for new "additions"... Our latest include:
 - ▶ **Outdoor Kitchen**
 - ▶ **Exercise Room Addition**
 - ▶ **"Underdeck" Renovation**

All About Us...

- (2) New **Regional Remodeling Awards** for **"Additions Under \$100K" Category:**
- ▶ **Contractor of the Year (CotY)**
From the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) (right →)
 - ▶ **Chrysalis (below)**



CotY Awards Gala in Austin, TX



Chrysalis Awards Gala in Atlanta, GA



Regional Winner-
Contractor of the Year: **NARI**
Residential Addition Under \$100,000



2006 Chrysalis Award
"Best Project - Interior Specialty"

2007 Chrysalis Award Regional Winner:
Additions Under \$100,000