

Jeff Rainey, President of HEB, Attends National Remodelers Show

From October 23rd to the 25th, Jeff Rainey, President of Home Equity Builders, attended the National Remodelers Show held in Baltimore, MD. Here is his take on the event: Having just returned from the Remodelers show I know just what it's like to be a kid in a candy store. Many new names are entering the remodeling arena and lots of new products on the horizon. A new product called DRI core keeps flooring and carpet safe and dry in basements.

DRIcore allows air to flow under the sub-floor and mold and mildew will not grow if moisture is absent.

www.dricore.com

Hot water problems just got easier to handle with Laing Hot water recirculation pumps. In a home without recirculation, the water sits in your pipes waiting for the call for hot water. The water must move throughout the house to pipes that are calling for hot water; as a result, gallons of water are wasted. By adding a return line from the most distant hot water faucet to the existing water heater and installing the Laing recirculating pump, hot water is constantly circulated in the supply line and is instantly available when you turn on the shower or faucet. All you need is a new electric circuit and re-plumb. Call us if you are interested!

www.laingc.com or www.autocirc.com



*Another one of our latest design/build kitchen projects in Great Falls.
Photo by Hi-Tech Photo.*



A mudroom bench provides storage and seating space.

The Mudroom Trend: Gateways to a Clean House

Some people may find the mudroom idea excessive. Some may not even know what it is about. But almost everyone can agree that the trend towards mudrooms in suburban housing is a trend towards preventive maintenance and functionality. A mudroom provides a space between the mud and pollutants of the outdoors and the cleanliness of a proud homeowners' living space. It also may provide storage for children's boots, raincoats and sports equipment (see picture in upper left). Some homeowners are even putting their washing machine and dryer in their mudroom to keep even more of the "dirty work" out of the rest of the living space (see picture in bottom left).



The washer and dryer find a new home.

An article on www.housingzone.com gives several reasons for the renewal of the mudroom trend, which was most popular during the 1920s. Higher regard for comfort levels have brought back the seating and storage area. This desire for comfort has caused the mudroom to now include radiant floor heating for those winter months and to dry clothes and boots faster. The mudroom also is a good entrance for more casual visitors to use—providing a "backdoor guest" feeling. Since the mudrooms used by farmers, the mudroom has come a long way in both design and functionality. The designers at HEB are happy to speak with you about your new mudroom.

Quality Remodeling and Handyman Services

Design Trends Become Comfortable

With almost every imaginable option available to the knowledgeable consumer, what drives a choice when it comes to fixtures, appliances and overall design? The answer is becoming clear: comfort. Sometimes that comfort comes in the form of luxury and sometimes in the way of simplicity. Either way, today's consumers are figuring out what they want and going after it. In bathrooms, clients are choosing a more relaxed approach; opting for spa-like showers that create a sense of relaxation and separation from everyday life. In bedrooms and living spaces, consumers are going the way of "exotic" feeling and moving towards a getaway experience.

What provides more comfort than even plush pillows and walls of windows is the sense that you can just sit back and relax while your project glides from start to finish. In order to attain this sort of nirvana, its essential for a consumer to research the contractor they want to work with and make sure that their previous clients have been satisfied. On top of that, it is important to find a contractor that is considered "design/build." That way, each aspect of your project is carefully completed and inspected by the same contractor who has your best interests (and budget!) in mind. Home Equity Builders is a design/build company and offers professional design services that lead up to a remodeling project. All vendors and subcontractors involved in the project answer directly to Home Equity Builders. All the client needs to do is set their budget, select their favorite design and then sit back and relax. Aren't you glad comfort is coming back in style?



The President's Post

This fall, I will be teaching the NARI Certified Kitchen and Bath Program; our superintendent, Pat Mullen, will be taking the Program offered by our local NARI Chapter. Home Equity Builders' office will be the school room for this program. We feel that continuing education for all staff is a must and it is one of the core foundations in which our company culture is based upon.

We feel the education and certification of our staff provides our clients with the best we can offer and elevates our staff in our field. Upon Pat's graduation from this program, the client can be assured of his in-depth and thorough knowledge of the kitchen and bath remodeling process. I have always felt that all remodelers should strive to be the best that we can be, to learn new processes and to set higher goals for both craftsmanship and service if we want to stay ahead of the pack. A little over three years ago, I saw the need for a group to help remodelers and the remodeling industry jump into the information technology arena. I started a group called the Remodelers' Information Technology Group (RITG). The RIT Group has 20 member companies and meets every month at the Tower Club in Tyson's Corner. AT our September meeting we had a 4 hour seminar on the use of ACT! Database management as a client based contact manager system. Home Equity Builders has utilized ACT! for many years; it helps us with all of our client contact information, scheduling, notes and histories and many other efficiencies.

Our clients are the number one priority, so we use the best programs and technologies available to us to help manage both your requests and our resources. This includes email, proposal writing, billings, construction scheduling, project management, and product ordering; just about anything that paper was used for previously. Home Equity has many goals but one of the most important goals is to be a technology leader amongst our peers and for our clients.

Home Equity Builders wants to make it easy for you to do business with us; we are the one stop shop, convenient and trust worthy. Many of you have tried and written to us about our handyman work and how pleased you have been with the service. We are now offering complete design work and interior design services for furniture and art work. Please call us to inquire about this new service.

What else can we do to serve you better? Please email us with your comments, concerns and questions. Home Equity Builders will listen; you have my promise!

-Jeff Rainey, President of Home Equity Builders

Quality Remodeling and Handyman Services

Our Current Jobs

Patrick Mullen, Superintendent, brought another successful job on Crews Road (GF) to a close at the end of October. His beautiful cabinetry skills and overall knowledge made the kitchen remodel sail towards an exquisite finish.

Monica Meade branched out and began Monica Meade Interiors, a new interior design company. Full of new ideas and past successes, Monica and HEB are looking forward to providing homeowners with more of the same quality design work, including our new kitchen remodel on Harewood Court (GF) and another on Honeywood Court (McLean).

Hollis McBroom manages the wrap up of our addition on St. Helena Drive in Oakton while still staying on top of all of his numerous handyman tasks. He's been using his skills to help out clients on Marlene Lane and Yarnick Road in Great Falls and Daviswood Drive in McLean (not to mention tens of others!).

Our staff continues to amaze us by their hard work and skill. We look forward to sharing them and their expertise with more Great Falls area residents.

"Your promptness and attention to detail were top-notch."

– Carol Hallman, Great Falls

To see more of our latest projects, go to www.hebinc.com



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The New Revolution in Decking

The materials vendor, T.W. Perry, and Home Equity Builders teamed together to present a seminar on the newest innovation in decking: vinyl. On October 20th, vendors and clients met in the HEB parking lot to learn about the new technique and material that provide an easier upkeep and less frequent maintenance. Rather than power washing every 18 months to keep up the appearance of your deck, you can simply wipe them down at your convenience. And you never have to stain again! If this sounds up your alley, give us a call and we can discuss your options.



Quality Remodeling and Handyman Services

HEB's New Finishing Touch

Once the walkthrough is done and a client has signed off on their punch list, what else is left? So many times a contractor walks away from the job and the client is left feeling great about the work...until a light bulb burns out or a child with crayons finds their new canvas. What could help a client when these situations arise? Home Equity thinks that a book with all of the information they need would be a start. Starting now, HEB is creating a book at the beginning of each project, which will include information like the type/wattage of light bulbs used and the exact paint color used on the walls. That way, when the client first has to replace something, they can find out exactly what they need. It gives them a handy reference guide to their new space. Just another way we're trying to make things easier for our clients.

Preparing for Winter's Effects

If last winter was any indication, we're in for a bit of a chill. The best thing you can do is make sure that your house is up to snuff ahead of time to avoid the costly repair jobs in the new year. Call our handyman for any repairs you need done or if you'd like us to audit your home to make sure its ready!

Do we have your correct email address? Email is our primary means of communication so be sure to let us know which email is best to reach you. Simply email us at Sharon.Rainey@hebinc.com.

Who We Are At Home Equity Builders

- Jeff Rainey.....President
CEO, CR
- Sharon Rainey.....VP
- Pat Mullen.....Superintendent
Lead Carpenter
- Hollis McBroom.....Lead Carpenter
- Kendall Wondergem.....Office Mgr.
- Joe Schilling.....Special Projects

Our Services

Here's a taste of what we have to offer to the discerning homeowner:

- Appetizers
Handyman Services
Pro-Active Maintenance

Our Specialties

- Kitchen Renovations
- Bath Renovations



- Main Courses
Additions
Other Renovations
Painting
Tile Work
Rotten Wood Repair
Decks

If you don't see what you're looking for, just give us a call. We're almost always able to accommodate any request!

Handyman rates are \$90/hr plus materials. Design is \$125/hr. Architectural fees are hourly and determined per job.