

Going Under Cover

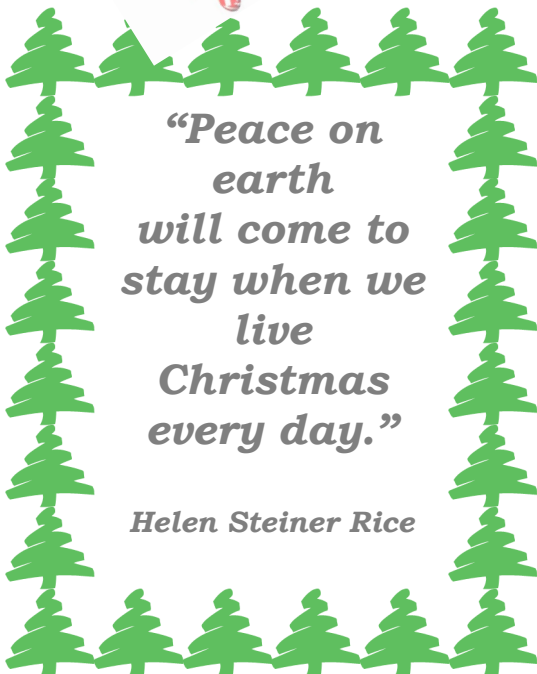
More than 83 percent of remodelers say they complete at least one outdoor living project each year. Even though some customers are empty nesters they still feel the need to expand living space out into the outdoors. They desire a place for the whole family to gather around when all the family is visiting.

Because of the northeast climate, the majority of customers opt for a three-season room. If homeowners do not enclose the space, then they are more likely to install heating elements in the ceiling of their covered area to deal with the colder weather. At the very least, it makes sense to include a screened in, covered outdoor space to allow for a bug-free environment to be enjoyed for the majority of the year.



The porch is often adjacent to the kitchen, therefore, homeowners may consider a vaulted ceiling or skylights in the roof structure with a lighter ceiling so light can be reflected back to the kitchen. If you have been considering a back porch, ponder it over the winter and then call Sechrist Construction and Remodeling when you are ready to begin your project. We want to help you out with your construction needs.

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!



*“Peace on earth
will come to stay when we live
Christmas every day.”*

Helen Steiner Rice

A Lovely Laundry Room

Wash, rinse, dry, repeat. As mundane as laundry day is, your laundry room doesn't have to be. The open floor plan for the laundry area is on the rise and after all, it usually doubles as the mudroom or the back entrance of the home—it needs to be enlarged. It is a hardworking, busy and often-on-display area that should look as good as any other room.

Homeowners are understanding the value of having the laundry area on the same floor as the living space instead of it being excluded and banned to the basement level. They are requesting the oversized, deep sink, additional counter space, cabinets and a lighter motif to accommodate high traffic, but to also be clean looking and pretty.



Bright accent color with some eye-catching materials and your laundry room can be as fashionable as your wardrobe.



"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year . . ."

THANK YOU!

Sechrist Construction and Remodeling wants you to know how much we appreciate your business! We are truly grateful to have the opportunity to serve you through your construction and remodeling projects.

BEFORE and AFTER



Adapted from Northern Nester

Email the Expert

Q.— I have wooden window sills. Over time they are looking worn and in need of rejuvenation. How do I care for my window sills?

A.—First of all, it is not a hard project to undertake. Wooden interior window sills do need attention through the years as they are in constant sunlight and exposed to moisture from open windows. It is usually an easy project that can be done in a few hours at most.

Tape off the window sills and lay out drop cloths on the floor. Sand the window sills with a sanding block, starting with the coarse block. Go to the medium sand paper and then the fine sand paper until the problems with the wood are addressed. Wipe the wood down between sandings and make sure it is completely free of debris.

Apply prepared stain evenly and wipe off any excess. Allow the stain to dry thoroughly, then apply one or two coats of sealer. Allow the sealer to dry between coats. When you are finished and your windowsill is dry, remove the tape and discard.

EMAIL THE EXPERT by sending your question to Steve. Please be sure to include your name and phone number in case additional information is required to answer your question. steve@sechristconstruction.com.

Fun Facts of Life

- A human thigh bone is tougher than concrete
- If there was a tunnel that would go straight through the Earth from one side to the other and you jumped in it, it would take you 42 minutes to emerge on the other side
- Shakira can speak 7 languages
- In the USA, there are more Chinese restaurants than all the McDonald's, KFCs, Burger Kings and Wendy's put together.
- 25% of all bottled water comes from the city tap
- Bruce Lee moved with such speed in fights they had to slow down the movie so people could see his moves
- A newborn kangaroo can fit in a teaspoon

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:9*





WE THREE KINGS

The three wise men who followed the Star of Bethlehem to greet baby Jesus have long been the subject of lore in Christmas music, including the classic, “We Three

Kings of Orient Are.”

The beloved hymn was written by Dr John Henry Hopkins Jr who devoted 11 years of his life to the Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport PA as the rector.

“It is difficult to say whether Dr. Hopkins was most widely appreciated as scholar, writer, preacher, controversialist, musician, poet or artist, because he was a man of ‘many parts’ and excelled in all,” so said Edward H Eckel.

Not only did he write the hymn that we often sing at Christmas, he also lent his artistic mind to the design of church furniture, wrought iron tombs in the Wildwood Cemetery and helped to design two church buildings in the area.

It has been said that he was very much beloved in the parish. He was totally devoted to the people and especially loved children and was very kind to anyone in need.

It is marvelous to imagine that in 1857 “We Three Kings of Orient Are” got its start right here in Williamsport PA and it is still sung around the world for millions to hear.

Adapted from 12/11/19 Sun-Gazette article



The Walk-ins

Showering has come to embody so much more than making oneself clean. The solitude, the steam, the whoosh of the water—it’s an experience that can invigorate the start of a day or calm things down at the end. It’s no wonder that some homeowners are readily choosing the spacious walk-in shower for their new remodels.



Walk-in showers are making a huge impact on homeowners and their comfort level. A walk-in shower is accessible for children, those aging in place and especially for the master bath. They are created curb less or with a low threshold, enabling those to age in place gracefully. The walk-in shower is being designed with two shower heads and additional space to accommodate a caretaker to be able to aid in bathing, yet it maintains all the elegance of the designer shower that it is for the master bath.

The shower ledge has replaced the shower niche. It is straightforward and requires a build-out of only a few inches into the shower space. It provides tons of space for shower essentials.

Build a gorgeous custom stone seat near the end of the shower for a convenient sitting area and add a hinged clear glass door for easy exiting.

To complete the shower, choose tile or stone from the many colors, textures and designs that the industry provides. Finishes in whites and grays brighten up the space and a variety of textures help keep it from feeling sterile. Start with a light-filled white subway tile for the shower walls and accent the room with gray-tone porcelain floor tiles to ground the space and offer a nice contrast to the white.

Whatever your remodeling needs may be—the walk in shower is perfect for anytime and any age.

“A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope and love. A blessed Christmas to you!”

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Check out our Website:
www.sechristconstruction.com

FROM MY DESK:

This is the perfect time to tell you that Sechrist Construction and Remodeling appreciates your construction jobs and we appreciate you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

All the best to you and your family in this Christmas season and in the new year.



Steve

Ingredients

4 oz unsweetened chocolate
1 c butter
2 c sugar
1 c flour
1/4 tsp salt
1 t vanilla extract
3 large eggs, lightly beaten

Filling:
3 c sweetened shredded coconut
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
1/2 tsp almond extract

Topping:
1 c semisweet chocolate chips
1/2 c chopped walnuts

Fudgy Macaroon Bars



Melt chocolate and butter; stir until smooth. Cool slightly. Stir in the sugar, flour, salt, vanilla and eggs. Spread half of the batter into a greased 13X9" baking pan.

In a large bowl, combine the filling ingredients. Spoon over chocolate layer. Carefully spread remaining chocolate mixture over filling. Bake at 350 for 35-40m. Immediately sprinkle with chocolate chips. Allow chips to soften for a few minutes, then spread evenly over filling. Sprinkle with walnuts. Cool completely before cutting.

