

Photo: Courtesy of Blue Heron Inc.



## THE RIGHT STUFF

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[www.ForestGlenConstruction.com](http://www.ForestGlenConstruction.com)

TELEPHONE: 847-236-0895

FAX: 847-948-1342

## Preserving the

## FUTURE



Photo: Courtesy of Native Trails ([www.nativetrails.net](http://www.nativetrails.net))

*The Bordeaux Wall Mount received this year's GREEN GOOD DESIGN award presented by The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design and The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies.*

It is encouraging to see the rising number of homeowners who are requesting that salvaged, reclaimed and reused materials be incorporated into their home remodeling projects today. The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) reports this to be a major remodeling trend nationwide. Homeowners have done the research, and they realize the benefits not only to the environment, but also to the appearance of their homes. They are recognizing the beauty and richness that aged materials can bring to their home environment. In the

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**FOREST GLEN**  
CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.

### Remodeling with Forest Glen Construction from Start to Finish

While you might be considering taking on a remodeling project, it is important to know the steps involved in working with a contractor. Forest Glen works with customers as transparently as possible, because we believe good communication is as important as quality workmanship.

#### Design and Planning Phase

Our process begins with a complimentary design consultation, allowing us to get to know you and understand the needs of your family. We will discuss ideas for the project and provide suggestions based on your home's style, zoning and other governing considerations, and your projected budget.

Our architect will take field measurements of the job and draw the plans. We review them together and discuss various materials for your project. Our design staff will assist with selections by providing samples of different products and accompanying you to our local vendor showrooms.

#### Construction Phase

We submit the approved plans to your village. When we receive the permit, our project manager will contact you to discuss the particulars of your job, determine construction access, and address any concerns you might have regarding construction.

The timeframe of the construction phase depends entirely on the scope of the project. It can range from six weeks for a small remodel to four months for a room addition and kitchen remodel. Forest Glen strives to complete each project as planned.

#### Completion

Upon completing each project, Forest Glen Construction will leave your newly remodeled home clean and ready for your family to decorate the space. When you choose Forest Glen, we build for you and for a relationship with you.

# THE RIGHT STUFF

Doing laundry is a fact of life. According to the EPA, the average American family washes almost 400 loads of laundry each year. Considering the amount of time and effort people relegate to this activity, it follows that the laundry room should be a pleasant and efficient place to work.

## What can make this chore more pleasant for your family?

**1.** Choosing the **right location** for the laundry room seems to be a major factor for most people. There isn't one perfect location that suits everyone.

- ▶ Near the bedrooms. Close proximity to your bedrooms means a shorter distance for hauling soiled clothing, bedding and bath linens to the washing machine and back. The piles of sorted laundry will be kept out of the main living area. You will have to return repeatedly to the bedroom area, however, to transfer the laundry from washer to dryer.

- ▶ Near the kitchen. If you like to cook or work on other housekeeping projects while doing the laundry, you can more efficiently multi-task by locating the laundry room adjacent to the kitchen. Plumbing lines are readily available. Install a pocket door that hides the clutter when unexpected guests arrive. A disadvantage is all the trips necessary to carry the laundry back and forth from the bedrooms. With a two-story home, a laundry chute from the second floor is a wonderful addition.

**2.** Another big factor is having the **right equipment** to complete the laundry tasks quickly and efficiently. Again, the preferences run the gamut.

- ▶ Whether you prefer top-loading or front-loading washing machines, high-efficiency (HE) models are now available in both types. They use less water than conventional washers and have higher-



speed spin cycles, which requires less energy from the dryer. Front-loading washers provide more design options: place a countertop above the machine for folding clothes; place the machine on a pedestal to improve ergonomics; stack the washer and dryer to save floor space.

- ▶ A 12" deep stainless-steel sink is practical for scrubbing stains and washing delicates. Unless you need to wash large items by hand, you can forgo the standard super-deep laundry tub that is uncomfortable to use. If you expect to be filling buckets at this sink, then choose a faucet with a pull-out spray or one with a high-arch. Pet owners might consider adding an elevated pet wash station to the laundry room.

- ▶ Include some locked cabinets for storing detergents and cleaning supplies out of the reach of children and pets. Baskets placed on shelves or inside cubbies work well for sorting laundry. Install a retractable clothesline for air drying wet clothes, and a rod for hanging clothes fresh from the dryer. A folding ironing board that stores in a wall cabinet or a drawer provides a convenient ironing surface when needed.

- ▶ Good lighting, both task and ambient, is vital for you to work efficiently. Include windows in your laundry room, if possible, to bring in natural light.

**3.** Finally, selecting the **right finishes** will ensure easy maintenance, helping you keep your laundry room looking attractive for years to come.

- ▶ Keep in mind that all surfaces should be water, stain and abrasion resistant. Choose a flooring material that is non-slippery, like Marmoleum or slip-resistant tile.
- ▶ A bathroom-style ventilation fan in the ceiling will help remove excess moisture from the room, preventing mold and mildew.

## High-Functionio

In surveys across the country, whenever homeowners are asked to make a wish-list for their kitchens, "more storage" consistently ranks up in the top ten of responses. Perhaps it seems there is never enough room in your kitchen for all the food, utensils, pots and pans, and assorted kitchen gadgets.

Part of the solution, of course, is first to eliminate the outdated items you no longer use. After that, assess the interior configuration of your kitchen cabinets. If primarily what you see

# Keep the Fan On

Most homeowners understand that they need to turn on the fan in their bathrooms while they shower—they notice the condensation on the mirror whenever they forget. What they often do not realize is that in a wet environment like a bathroom, with toilets flushing and faucets flowing, moisture is constantly in the air. It creates the perfect environment for mold and mildew to thrive, damaging bathroom finishes and causing health problems for the user. A bathroom fan should be activated every time your bathroom is used, not only when you are showering.

The Home Ventilation Institute (HVI) gives guidelines for determining which size ventilation unit(s) to purchase for your bathroom. The decision is based on the unit's

cfm airflow rating (cubic foot per minute), the bathroom's square footage, and the number of water-generating fixtures installed. A large bathroom may require more than one fan—one in the shower, one in the water closet, and one over the tub. Another option is a fan system that utilizes a remote-mount motor connected to several ceiling grills positioned throughout your bathroom.

It is recommended that you leave the fan on for 20 minutes after you finish using the bathroom. You may hesitate to follow this advice, assuming that you will forget to turn the fan off and thereby waste energy. One solution is a timer that simply turns the fan off after a set length of time. A humidity-sensing fan goes beyond that—switching on whenever it senses an increase in humidity and then turning off again automatically.

There are also multi-speed models that operate continuously at lower cfm levels to provide whole-house ventilation, but then ratchet up to higher cfm levels when a motion detector senses someone entering the room.

If you are concerned about quiet operation, note the fan's sone rating—a measurement of the way the human ear senses the loudness of the fan. A high-quality fan with a sone rating of 1.0 or less will be barely audible, while an inexpensive fan could have a sone rating of 4, similar to the level of human speech.



Photo: Courtesy of Panasonic (www.panasonic.com)

*New in 2013, this WhisperGreen fan/light by Panasonic features LED technology.*

Bathroom fans are available in a wide variety of styles—some offer the look of simple recessed ceiling cans, while others become decorative centerpieces for the room. Some include supplemental lighting, while others have heating features. When selecting your fan, look for those that are Energy Star-qualified, which means they excel at energy savings, quiet operation and level of performance.



Photo: Courtesy of Panasonic (www.panasonic.com)

*Available starting this month, this WhisperRecessed fan includes LED lighting.*



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is stationery shelving, the most practical course of action is to make sure your cabinets feature the latest pull-out organization systems. These newer systems maximize the space in your kitchen so that items are more accessible, and you can actually store more in the same amount of space.

With the blind corner optimizer shown here, you will no longer need to crawl inside your corner cabinets to retrieve items you have stored in the back recesses. The unit glides out effortlessly, bringing items straight to your fingertips. The tall pull-out pantry extends fully, bringing everything out to where it is completely accessible.



Photo: Courtesy of Rev-A-Shelf (www.rev-a-shelf.com)

*Blind corner optimizer*



Photo: Courtesy of Rev-A-Shelf (www.rev-a-shelf.com)

*Pullout pantry*

Remodeling with Forest Glen

The Right Stuff

Preserving the Future

Keep the Fan On



Forest Glen Construction Co. Inc.  
2639 Forest Glen Trail  
Riverwoods, IL 60015

Tel: 847-236-0895  
Fax: 847-948-1342

Home Additions, Custom Homes, Kitchen Remodeling  
[www.ForestGlenConstruction.com](http://www.ForestGlenConstruction.com)

## Preserving the **FUTURE**

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last few years, the idea of preservation has gained ground, and gradually consumers are reversing the earlier trend of throwing away and buying everything new.

If you value reclaiming and reusing, perhaps you are excited about incorporating aged materials into your upcoming bathroom



remodeling project. In that case, there are several different avenues you can take.

**First of all**, you can decide whether there are any materials you would like to reuse from your own home. Your professional remodeler can give you guidance on this. If you want to transform your grandmother's antique sideboard into a bathroom vanity, you need to be aware that the original furniture finish will not withstand the level of moisture present in a bathroom environment. Also, the interior drawer configuration was not designed to accept plumbing pipes. Obstacles like these can be overcome, but it will require labor, expense, and your willingness to make some drastic changes to your family heirloom.

**A second direction** you can turn is to a local company that specializes in the deconstruction of buildings and the salvaging of building materials for reuse. Here you may find a vintage bathroom vanity in excellent condition, or a lovely pedestal sink for a fraction of the original price. A stack of reclaimed wood, rich in character, could inspire a custom-built vanity or medicine cabinet. And then you could consider donating unwanted building materials from your remodeling project back to the salvage company. Many such companies give the proceeds from the sale of donated materials to charities—such as Habitat for Humanity. You will have the pleasure of knowing you have benefitted others in more ways than one.



*The Cabernet Vanity - The finish is a result of the oak staves soaking in red wine for many months.*

**The third option** is to purchase a bathroom vanity from a manufacturer known for creating beautiful, high-quality new products from salvaged materials. The advantage of going this direction is knowing you have purchased a sustainable product that also has been designed and finished specifically to resist the stains and moisture normally associated with a bathroom environment. The Vintner's Collection by Native Trails (*shown here and on page 1*) transforms oak barrels and staves into beautifully functional bathroom furniture and mirrors with a unique history.

*The Chardonnay Vanity - Made from oak staves used to flavor white wine during the fermenting process.*