

Walk On The Local Side With Pasadena Floors



Hardwood is always a beautiful option, and Pasadena Floors has amazing choices.

By Rochelle Karina

In today's tough housing market, many families are turning to renovation instead of relocation. One of the fastest ways to accomplish a

facelift for your home is updating flooring. The list of flooring choices can be overwhelming; finding a flooring expert to help is always a good option.

Pasadena Floors is a locally owned

and operated company that has been providing flooring services to the area since 1994. Prior to that, co-owner Marty Kinder had been working in the flooring business since he got out of high school. Between them, he and partner Steve Garvey have over 32 years of experience. "Right out of high school, I knew I was cut out for a trade," explains Kinder. "I got into this business and really enjoyed it."

Their current location on Mountain Road is their third, they started out in just 300 square feet, but they've always been in Pasadena. "My wife and I moved here in 1989 to be closer to her work," Kinder said. They settled because they enjoyed the community so much. "Pasadena is a unique area. It's near a large metro area, but has a real down-home atmosphere. The community is solid, grounded and small business oriented."

Pasadena Floors is a full-service



Photos by Rochelle Karina
Marty Kinder discusses the advantages of Mohawk's SmartStrand line of carpeting

provider, featuring flooring options including carpet, tile, wood, laminate and more. They are affiliated with Mohawk Industries, and are a

Continued on 10

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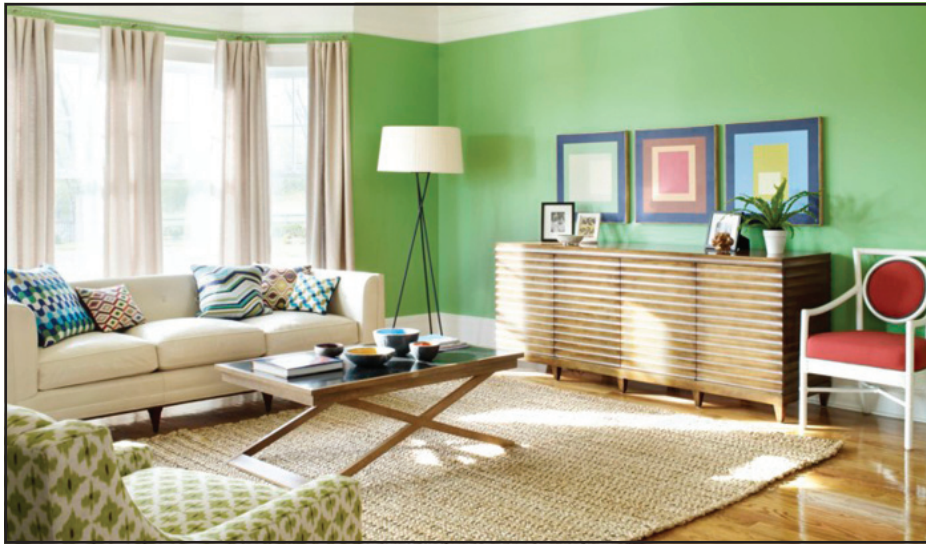
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Painting Is Not Just For The Spring And Summer



By Sharon Naylor, **Creators.com**

In fall and winter, the days are getting shorter, the air cooler, and you're spending more time indoors — which makes this the perfect time to tackle those room painting projects you didn't get around to last spring. A great many homeowners think they're limited to the cool spring season when they can open their windows to allow for fresh air circulation during painting, but

interior designers say that fall and early winter still allow for the open-window solution without the risk.

What's the risk? Too-cold air wafting into a room can chill your paint supply — especially in the rolling pan — and make application difficult, streaky and perhaps unattractive. But before temperatures dip to a damaging extreme, there's time to paint your rooms. Open windows in fall may let in a far more acceptable level

of fresh air, especially when you're avoiding the moisture of spring air and humidity of summer air.

Choose Your Hues

The rooms you spend time in can affect your mood. During the long, dark, cold winter months, it's far cheerier to spend time in a vibrant, energizing room — for example, one painted yellow, currently a very popular shade. If you rather would feel warm and cozy, your den or bedroom can soothe you in comforting shades of cappuccino or sage green. Visit the website of a popular paint retailer, such as <http://www.BenjaminMoore.com>, to take a free "paint color personality" test, which will show you tones relating to specific emotions, e.g., energized, relaxed, romantic and more. You even can try different paint colors on images of room layouts to choose the perfect combination for your wall and ceiling. And now, with the new Benjamin Moore iPhone app, you can take a photo of a painting, a flower, a throw pillow or your favorite item of clothing, and the app will show you an exact color match from

the company's collection.

"I have a painting on my bedroom wall of a Tuscan garden, and I wanted to match the pink shade in that," says new homeowner Teresa Lestrom. "I tried to match it to those paint strips in the home supply store, but I could never get it quite right. I hear that pinks, reds and greens are really hard to match because of their undertones. But the app gave me the perfect shade, taking the frustration and fear out of picking our color. And my kids used the app to pick out their new room colors, too."

One secret of interior designers is to use lighter shades to make a small room appear larger and to reflect the sunlight that you do get in a room during the fall and winter months. Deeper, darker colors often make a room look smaller.

And designers also say that freshening your ceilings, moldings and chair rails with a fresh application of white or near-white paint gives a room an instant makeover that raises your spirits during the dark, bleak winter months.

Continued on 14

Making The Connection With Outdoor Living Spaces

Continued from 7

your outdoor living area at night, you might also want to add outdoor lighting. While candles can provide a low light mood to any setting, they also carry safety concerns, especially on wood decks. Low voltage lighting provides consistent lighting without the fire hazard. With many styles to choose from, low voltage lighting can be tailored to add small amounts of mood and transitional lighting or illuminate an area completely.

Do you need a fence to provide protection, security, or privacy to your area? There are many options available from wood to metal, plastic and stone. With newer advancements in the vinyl industry, low-maintenance, wood-looking PVC is now available and becoming more and more popular. If all you need is a small bit of privacy, you may want to look to the landscap-



ing around your yard. Privacy can easily be created with trees, shrubs or climbing plants on upright structures such as trellises, pergolas, or screens.

Most importantly, be sure your outdoor living space is safe and works well for your needs and budget. With a little bit of expert advice and planning, anyone can create an outdoor living space that will add to their home's value and provide years of enjoyment and recreation for their family and friends.

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Continued from 9

Mohawk Color Center Elite Dealer, and were voted Color Center Dealer of the Year 2010 for the Mid-Atlantic Region. "Mohawk allows our business to be a part of one of the biggest brands," explained Kinder. "We can offer the latest and greatest in technology and products." Mohawk also provides business development and training and Kinder is serving his second year on Mohawk's National Advisory Council. "It's a good opportunity for me," Kinder says. "I can tell you firsthand that the people at Mohawk are working hard to continuously provide us with the highest quality training programs, consumer incentives, advertising and support that has been vital in helping us create a great shopping experience for our customers. They have provided the tools to help us improve and make our business more successful! Our company has

gained so much by staying involved in the partnership."

The local focus is important to Kinder, "We are rooted here and we will continue to support and serve the community. We have a knowledgeable staff who offer good service with a caring attitude. Steve and I are very involved in every step of the process." Meeting the needs of customers is also high on his list. "We understand the customer's needs and budget," he explains. "We can help guide them through the best choices in a non-threatening and non-aggressive way. We make it easy."

For information about their offerings, check out their website at www.pasadenafloors.com, or visit the showroom at 2900 Mountain Road in Pasadena. You can also call the office at 410-768-2640 to learn more. Their website features design ideas, product information, special offers and lots more.