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Burnside Flooring a top choice for this season's styles

BURNSIDE: Being up on fashion and the latest style trends isn't a trait targeted specifically at clothing.

At Burnside's Flooring/ Floors Plus, manager Buddy Lewis is always ready to help those in the market for a new floor find the perfect, stylish fit for their home.

Floors Plus has been a first choice in flooring selection for years. Lewis said there are some big trends hitting the floor this season making a real splash with customers.

"One thing that's big right now is luxury vinyl tile," he said. "It looks just like ceramic."

The tiles are easy to install, are user friendly, and offer many other perks to those who choose the product.

"Installation wise, it's a lot easier," said Lewis. "It looks exactly like ceramic tile."

The vinyl tiles also offer something a little easier on the body.

"It's not as hard as real tile," said Lewis. "It's a lot softer and because of that it is easier to walk on."

The product is available in a wide range of colours and styles to choose from.

"One of the biggest trends right now with the vinyl tiles is the natural stone look," added Lewis. "It looks really realistic, it's not cold and it's easy."

Floors Plus currently has a promotion on with the vinyl tile product. Details are available in store.

Other big trends Lewis is noticing this

spring includes a shift in the popular colours of hardwood floors—or lack of colour.

"A big trend we are finding right now is greys, and charcoals," he said. "We have been seeing grey laminates, silver hardwood; those products have a really nice shine to them."

It's a trend not limited to hardwood. It's spreading through all types of flooring.

"Charcoal is also really big right now," Lewis said. "It's big in carpet and laminates as well."

And it doesn't stop there, as greys, silvers and charcoals have also been named a top trend among paint colours this season as well.

"It's been a big thing for people to go with the greys and then to use something else to give a room that pop, and punch of colour," said Lewis.

But, the trend with cooler hues doesn't mean people are compromising warmth.

Another trend that seems to be continuing is a natural product.

"Cork is still a big thing," he said. "It's a warmer, softer floor."

"It's also really green and it's hypo-allergenic."

Other specials at Floors Plus for the spring include deals on cork flooring, as well as solid and engineered hardwood floors.

Floors Plus can be found in the Burnside Industrial Park at 31 Stern Court in Dartmouth. Products can also be viewed online at www.floorsplus.ca.



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Budget Blinds brings home decor to your front door

Tracey Keenan's office is overflowing with blinds. But she's not frowning on being overcrowded with them, because it's a sign that spring is in the air for the owner of Budget Blinds Halifax.

The home-based business, which currently serves customers in the Halifax, Dartmouth, Sackville, Bedford and Fall River region, is owned by Keenan, who has clientele all the way from Truro to the Valley to the South Shore.

Budget Blinds provides free in-home estimates to customers all over Halifax Regional Municipality and further, with a main focus on draperies, blinds, shades, shutters, retractable screens, film including solar and frosted and other accessories.

Keenan said solar shades are a hot seller this time of year, because they help keep the heat at a relatively easy level to handle. "Solar shades are a really good product for blocking out the ultraviolet rays the sun puts off and keeping the light and glare off things, such as TV's," she said. "The main thing is that it protects things like your hardwood floors and furniture from fading. But it's not just for regular people, solar shades are also a good marketing tool for businesses", Keenan said. "We



Shown is just a selection of the product available through Budget Blinds Halifax, owned and operated by Tracey Keenan. (Submitted photo)

have the ability to put graphics on solar shades from pictures to your company logo whatever suits your advertising needs", she added.

The solar shades do come in different levels of protections depending on your needs. Another alternative to solar shades is solar film, but the main difference between the two is that the solar films go right on the windows and is there permanently until

you remove it, where the solar shades are blinds that can roll up out of the way when you want the heat to come in. Both are really good choices to keep those damaging rays out depending on your needs.

But, solar shades aren't the only things that are good sellers for Budget Blinds, which is looking at expanding by hiring more consultants to keep up with the demand for its services. Keenan said the company

is having its busiest year so far. "We also have cellular blinds and shutters, which are another good year-round product because they are excellent insulators," Keenan added. "They will keep the heat out for the summer months and keep the cold out in the winter. They're both really good energy-saving choices.

Budget Blinds can help you, the client, with any type of window covering

you're looking for, whether it needs to be wood, aluminum, fabric, composite, faux wood, vertical or a vertical alternative, they have it all. They even have their own brand, called the Signature Series, which comes with a "no-questions-asked warranty".

Among some of the products they offer include blinds, shutters, shades, draperies, window film and specialty products and even specialty shapes

including those hard to cover arcs.

At Budget Blinds the consultations are something that's offered free of charge all the time. They provide flexible hours for those that require evening appointments. "We work around the client's schedule". Another great free of charge service they offer is installation of all their products, no matter what the size of the order, no matter what the product.

"We provide a great warranty with three of our product lines," she added. "These products come with a five year, no questions asked warranty. That means there's no questions asked when a blind gets damaged, no matter if they broke it or whatever happened to it, if they purchased from one of these three product lines."

"We always have great promotions with our products, like the one we have for the 2nd quarter, where you can save up to 40% off Select Signature Series products." Keenan encourages anyone looking at replacing their old draperies or blinds to give her a call at 404-3881 and herself or a staff member will come and show you what great products Budget Blinds has available to suit your exact need.

Signature Murano® by Budget Blinds® Fashion Meets Function

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Mother Hubbards kitchens extends through different styles

Spring is just around the corner and this is a great time to start thinking about that new kitchen you have been yearning for.

Renovating your existing kitchen or planning a kitchen for your new home can be an overwhelming challenge for many, with so many choices available. Consulting with an experienced professional kitchen designer is a must to maximize your kitchen's potential, whether you are renovating for yourself or the marketplace, with plans to sell soon. Mother Hubbard's Kitchens will guide you through every step from start to finish.

Our experienced designers will listen to your needs, your wishes and how your new kitchen will work best for you. Then they will offer you expert advice and suggestions that will suit your needs, your style and your budget. From the arrangements of cabinets and appliances to selecting materials, finishes and options, our designs are both functional and esthetically pleasing for our clients.

We are continuing to "wow" our customers again this year with our introduction of new stain colors, paint colors and glaze applications to our already vast selection. Our integration of stained cabinets with paint finish cabinets has been described by our clients as "breathtaking" and "we could never have imagined". That's one of the parts we love best about this business – helping to make your kitchen the "heart" in your home. We stay on top of what's new and share this information with our clients so that they can make informed decisions.

Mother Hubbard's Kitchens is a well-established Atlantic Canadian company that has been designing and manufacturing custom kitchens, bathrooms and custom built-ins for many years. Our reputation as a company committed to quality and service is stellar. We have designed and shipped kitchens throughout Atlantic Canada and as far away as California and Bermuda and are very proud of the vast selection of door styles and finishes we have to offer.

All of our cabinets are built in our Dartmouth manufacturing facility. Our cabi-

net sizes are constructed in 1 1/2" increments to maximize the use of space. So you will never be restricted to using modular pieces and losing valuable space. Best of all, because of our advanced technology, we can offer you these custom and semi-custom cabinets at modular pricing.

The kitchen is becoming more and more the premier room in a home. This multi-functional room is accommodating more people and activities –with centers for dish and food storage, food preparation, cooking, homework, and entertaining family and friends.

Visit our showroom and see for yourself the selection we have to offer. You won't be disappointed.

As always, our goal is to maintain a long-term relationship with our clients through repeat and referral business by providing complete customer satisfaction – extraordinary service, timeliness, attention to detail and exceptional workmanship.

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Payzants growing Burnside location to include showroom

BURNSIDE: Just like a family grows, a well-established family business must too.

Payzant Home Hardware Building Centre at 40 Wright Ave in Dartmouth is doing just that.

The store is currently under-going renovations to add a Peter Kohler Window and Door showroom to their facility. The showroom is expected to be open this spring.

Randy Greeno is the manager of the Payzant Burnside store. He is looking forward to the new showroom to offer more selection to their customers and clients.

"The Burnside store has never had a window and door showroom," he said. "We want people to be aware and to keep an eye out that it's coming."

He said Payzant's main location in Sackville has a loyal customer base that comesto the facility for all of their hardware needs and building supplies, whether it is materials for home renovations or basic necessities found in a tool box.

It's something he would like to see come to the Burnside location as well, and he thinks a new showroom could be just the

ticket.

"Payzant Home Hardware in Lower Sackville is an established business," he said. "People in that area go to Payzants. But, people in Dartmouth and Halifax consider us to be kind of out of the way, they don't drive into the Sackville area."

That's where the expanded showroom in Burnside comes in.

"People will come into Dartmouth," said Greeno. "It's really to develop business for us in that area."

Also, Burnside is an area ripe with developers and contractors. Greeno said that's an excellent area to break into as well.

"We want to earn more of their business, so, if we have the showroom right here in Burnside, that will be a help," he said.

A firm date on the showroom's opening has yet to be set since they are still in the beginning stages of the renovation. Greeno encourages those in the market for window and door purchases to come to their Burnside location at 40 Wright Ave.

The store can be reached by phone at 486-3500.



Renovations are underway for the Window and Door Showroom.
(Thompson photo)



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Professionally creating your dream kitchen

Home renovations can sometimes be very trying experiences. Fortunately for

us, there are specialists available to give us a helping hand.



Among these is the kitchen professional whose main function is to create a dream kitchen just for you.

Skilled in construction, cabinetry, plumbing and electricity, this specialist uses his boundless creative talents to give you complete satisfaction.

The first step is for him to come to your home to evaluate the project and make some suggestions, perhaps enhancing or adding to what you already had in mind.

After this brainstorming session your ideal kitchen will be starting to take shape.

The next step will be to draw up a detailed set of plans

in order to offer you a finished product which will meet all your requirements both functional and aesthetic.

This specialist also has a lot of experience in decorating the kitchens he designs and will be able to give you some useful advice, including the perfect combination of cabinets, floor coverings and countertops.

One of the other advantages of having an expert to help you is that he'll be able to make suggestions about lighting, an element which is often neglected during renovations.

Thanks to his expertise the lighting will accentuate the beauty of your new kitchen.

A design unique as you are

You're unique; it shows in your attitudes, in your clothing, in your lifestyle. But does the interior of your home also reflect your personality? For your home to become an extension of yourself all you have to do is follow your passions, your interests and your tastes!

Let's begin with your passions.

Passions are a fertile source of inspiration. You're a globe-trotter and you'd like to redecorate your living room. The souvenirs from your travels should take pride of place or an African mask brought home from Senegal could be the focal point of the decor. Is photography your passion? Then why not cover your walls and your furniture with your most beautiful creations, carefully arranging the different frames. Old cameras could be used as book-ends, blending in other reminders of this pastime which so enthral you.

Your personal interests matter

Your interests can also guide you in your choice of decorations. For example, if you're inspired to become more Zen, stones, a fountain and other objects representative of this philosophy could be key elements in your bedroom or your bathroom.

It's a question of taste.

Your tastes can also be used as a starting point when decorating a room. For example, if lilac is your absolutely favourite colour, you could be daring and paint one or more walls this colour, adding cushions and other fabrics to bring out this shade which you love so much. And if you adore collecting things, such as antique bottles, nothing stops you from adding lots of shelves to display them on.

In short, if you want to personalize the interior of your home, be daring!



Home design is a great way to bring your personal style into your home.

(submitted photo)

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Home staging: getting a bigger bang for your buck

The old adage that you only get one chance to make a first impression rings true for sellers showing their homes in today's ever increasingly competitive market. Many homeowners wonder what they can do to help get their homes ready to sell.

We seldom, if ever, think of our homes as stage settings. Yet, when they're on sale, they're in the spotlight.

WHAT IS HOME STAGING?

Home staging focuses on presenting the house in the best possible way. It takes each room, develops a focal point and a primary purpose for each space, and makes it more attractive for buyers.

The biggest mistake most homeowners make is thinking that, because they are happy and comfortable in their home, everyone else will be as well. Nothing could be further from

the truth!

When buyers come in, they want to be able to look past your stuff and visualize themselves in your house, and think "this space would be great with all my things in it".

Unfortunately most buyers need a little extra help with this. This is where staging a home comes into play.

Staging also means "looking through the buyer's eyes", so to speak.

You downplay the flaws in the house while highlighting its best features. Often, when we live in the home, we fail to see its key features.

We can stop noticing that fantastic view and may even stick the television in front of it! Staging is a key marketing tool. If you're serious about getting top dollar and selling your house sooner rather than later, that's what staging

does, by showcasing the space.

Here are the main home staging tips:

1. Consider curb appeal
2. Get rid of clutter
3. Clean, clean and clean some more
4. De-personalize
5. Create spaciousness

First impressions are key in real estate, as buyers often make up their minds about a home within the first few minutes of entering the front door.

As the real estate market begins to moderate across the country, the need to impress buyers becomes even more crucial.

Home staging can make all the difference when it comes to selling a home quickly and for top dollar.



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