

SPONSORED BY



SPONSORED BY



FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT

OCTOBER 2026

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



More Than Just a House

A fall message from Under Pressure

There is something about fall in New England that brings us back home.

The days get a little shorter. The air gets cooler. Summer schedules begin to slow down. Before long, we'll be gathering around kitchen tables, welcoming family through the front door, watching football in the living room, celebrating holidays and spending more time with the people who matter to us.

It has me thinking about what a home really is.

We spend so much time maintaining our homes, improving them and worrying about what needs to be fixed next that sometimes it's easy to forget what they're actually for.

A home is so much more than a building.

It's where our kids grow up. It's where friends gather. It's where birthdays are celebrated, difficult days are worked through, meals are shared and ordinary moments become memories without us even realizing it.

And in a world that can sometimes feel uncertain and incredibly fast-moving, I think there's something comforting about coming home.

This fall, maybe we can all



spend a little less time worrying about whether everything is perfect and a little more time appreciating what we already have.

Open the door.

Invite someone over.

Sit around the fire.

Put up the lights a little early.

Have another cup of coffee on the porch.

Say hello to the neighbor you haven't talked to in a while.

Let your home be a place that doesn't just shelter your family, but also brings a little warmth and light to the people around you.

At Under Pressure, we've had the privilege of caring for homes throughout our communities for nearly 27 years. We've washed thousands of houses, cleaned countless gutters, restored roofs, cleaned patios and helped families prepare their homes for another season.

But after all these years, I've come to realize that we're not re-

spotlight
ON HOME

ally in the business of cleaning houses.

We're in the business of helping people enjoy the place they call home.

That's something we're incredibly grateful to have been able to do for nearly three decades.

As we head into another beautiful New England fall and eventually the holiday season, all of us at Under Pressure want to say thank you to the homeowners, families and communities who have trusted us over the years.

Take care of your home. Enjoy it. Share it. And maybe use it to bring a little more light into someone else's life this season.

We hope you have a wonder-



ful fall and a happy holiday season.

And as always, **we're here if you need us.**

— **Mark & the Under Pressure Team**

Helping you enjoy the place you call home.

- PAID ADVERTISEMENT -

Design / Build

- **Custom Homes**
- **Renovations & Additions**
- **ADUs**
(accessory dwelling unit)

Celebrating
25 Years
in Business

www.JEPCONTRACTING.com

Five small improvements that can make a big difference

For homeowners working with a limited budget, thoughtful small changes can provide plenty of satisfaction without turning fall into renovation season overload.

Consider these relatively easy, and budget-friendly, updates that can make the fall and winter months more enjoyable.

- **Lighting.** A new pendant over a kitchen island, a modern ceiling fixture or improved lighting in a hallway can dramatically change the appearance of a room.

- **Cabinet hardware.** Replacing knobs and pulls in a kitchen or bathroom can give cabinets a fresh appearance without replacing the cabinets themselves.

- **Switch plates and outlet covers.** This is a small detail but one that you use and see daily. New covers are inexpensive but

can make an older room look cleaner and more finished.

- **Window treatments.** Replacing faded curtains or outdated blinds can improve both appearance and privacy. Energy-efficient shades can also help reduce heat loss during colder months.

- **Paint.** A new color in an entryway, bedroom or home office can change the mood of the space almost instantly. Fall is particularly convenient for painting because cooler temperatures can make working indoors more comfortable.

The key is to concentrate on areas that homeowners and guests see frequently: an entryway, kitchen, bathroom or living room can often benefit more from a few carefully chosen improvements than from a long list of minor projects scattered throughout the house.



FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT

A cleaner, brighter home for the season ahead.



FALL GUTTER CLEANING

Prevent water damage and protect your home.



HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Professional design, installation and take down.



HOUSE WASHING

A clean, bright home for the holiday season.

508-944-6644

underpressurewash.com

RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL | 25+ YEARS OF TRUST

Sheet mulching is an easy way to build better soil

Cover lawn with cardboard boxes now, be ready to plant in spring

If you have a patch of lawn you would rather turn into a garden, there is no need to rent a sod cutter or spend a weekend digging. Sheet mulching, also known as “cardboarding,” is a simple technique that uses layers of cardboard and organic material to smother grass and weeds while gradually improv-

ing the soil beneath. And fall is a great time for this project as cooler temperatures and seasonal rainfall help the materials break down, giving you a head start on creating a planting bed for spring. The cardboard blocks sunlight, weakening the grass and weeds underneath. As moisture and

soil organisms break down the cardboard, its organic matter becomes part of the soil. Earthworms and other beneficial organisms can move through the layers, helping improve soil structure over time. According to Penn State Extension (PSE), this can be done in three simple steps:



and pest problems.

- You can thoroughly wet the cardboard first, if it will not rain in the near future.

With little more than cardboard, compost and mulch, an unwanted patch of lawn can become the foundation for a healthier garden—without all the digging.

Where to get free cardboard

There are several ways to gather free cardboard. Good sources include:

- Appliance stores (large or small). Large refrigerator, dishwasher and appliance boxes provide excellent coverage with fewer seams.
- Furniture stores. Ask about boxes from furniture deliveries.
- Liquor stores. Smaller boxes are useful for filling gaps.
- Grocery stores. Produce and shipping boxes can work, provided they aren’t wax-coated or heavily contaminated with food. Some stores request advance notice to hold boxes.
- Neighbors and community groups. Post a request on a local Facebook or neighborhood group. Moving boxes (especially wardrobe boxes) are ideal.
- Your own recycling bin. Save shipping boxes for several weeks before starting (consider starting your holiday shopping early and reuse those boxes).

Prepare the area. Clear the space of rocks, debris, and any large obstacles. Mow as short as possible.

Layer cardboard. Place sheets of plain cardboard (avoid glossy or coated types) over the lawn or weeds. Overlap edges to prevent light from reaching through.

Add mulch. Cover the cardboard with 2-4 inches of organic mulch such as pine needles, dead leaves, grass clippings, or compost.

PSE recommends deeper mulch for vegetables or annuals; and lighter mulch for native perennials or poor-soil plants. To watch a video demonstration, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/sheet-mulching-lawn-to-garden-bed-in-3-steps>.

A few helpful hints include:

- Avoid using cardboard that has been treated with wax or contains plastic coatings, or has heavy printing.
- Don’t create thick, compacted layers that prevent water and air from reaching the soil.
- Keep sheet mulch several inches away from tree trunks and shrub stems to prevent rot



**AFFORDABLE
JUNK REMOVAL
AND DUMPSTER RENTAL**

Full-Service & Self-Service Options | Residential & Commercial Clients



JUNK REMOVAL
We do the heavy lifting -
you point, we haul it away.



DUMPSTER RENTALS
15-yard dumpsters.
Driveway safe.

**HASSLE-FREE,
FAST,
RELIABLE
CLEANOUTS**



**COMPETITIVE
PRICING**
No hidden fees. All pricing
listed on our website.

Same Day Service Available | Locally Owned & Operated



CONTACT US TODAY!
774.287.1133 | AffordableJunkRemoval.com

Mold: The warning signs you shouldn't ignore

As summer transitions into fall, lingering humidity, seasonal storms and shifting temperatures can leave moisture in areas of the home that are easy to overlook. RestoPros of Southeastern Massachusetts is offering homeowners practical guidance on recognizing signs of mold, reducing moisture risks and knowing when professional remediation may be needed.

Water-damaged materials can create conditions for mold growth within 48 to 72 hours, whether the moisture comes from a roof leak, plumbing problem, flood, condensation or sustained humidity. Mold may develop behind walls, beneath flooring or inside insulation before visible growth appears. The Environmental Protection Agency notes that in-home mold exposure can cause allergic reactions and respiratory irritation for the people living there.

“Your home should be a safe place for you and your family, and you should never have to wonder whether something inside it could be affecting your health,” said Joe Markey, owner of RestoPros of Southeastern Massachusetts. “Mold can take hold before there is anything obvious to see. RestoPros wants homeowners to understand the signals that their home may be giving them and know where to turn when something does not seem right.”

Potential Microbial Growth Red Flags to Watch For

- Persistent musty odors: An earthy or musty smell may indicate mold growth, even when no visible patches are present.
- Discoloration or staining: Dark spots, water stains, bubbling paint or warped materials may point to moisture behind a wall, ceiling or floor.
- High indoor humidity: Relative humidity above 60% can create favorable conditions for mold. The EPA recommends keeping indoor levels ideally between



Joe Markey, Owner

- 30% and 50%.
 - A history of water damage: Materials can remain damp beneath the surface after a leak or flood appears to have dried.
 - Possible health symptoms: Some people exposed to damp or moldy conditions may experience coughing, wheezing, a stuffy nose, irritated eyes or skin reactions that worsen indoors.
- When one or more of these signs are present, homeowners should take several steps to limit further moisture damage and better understand whether professional help is needed.

What to Do If You Suspect Mold

- Find the moisture source. Identify and repair leaks or humidity problems that may be contributing to mold growth.
- Avoid disturbing large or concealed areas. Scrubbing or spraying mold-affected areas may release spores into the air and spread contamination.
- Document the conditions. Photograph visible staining or damage, note where odors are strongest and record any recent leaks or flooding.
- Do not paint or seal over visible growth. Covering the affected area traps underlying moisture and leaves mold unaddressed.
- Know when to contact a professional. The EPA advises consulting an experienced remediation professional when mold covers more than approximately 10 square feet, follows extensive water damage or may be

present inside walls, HVAC components or other difficult-to-access areas. RestoPros of Southeastern Massachusetts helps property

owners recover from damage caused by water, mold, fire and smoke throughout southern Metrowest, Blackstone Valley, and Southeastern

Massachusetts. For more information or to connect with the team, visit RestoPros.co/ma-norfolk-attleboro or call 781-818-1821.



RestoPros
SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

CONCERNED ABOUT WATER OR MOLD?

*The real damage may be hidden. Get answers – Call for a **FREE INSPECTION.***



-  **Water Damage Recovery**
-  **Mold Remediation**
-  **Fire / Smoke Mitigation**

Quick and reliable assistance when you need it most.

Locally owned and managed.

IICRC Certified
Licensed & Insured

OUR PROMISE

- 24/7 Emergency Response
- Free Inspections
- Work with Insurance



CONTACT US TODAY
781-818-1821



For Natick & Ashland
ONLY 508-205-9602



Because Your Family's Health & Safety Matters Most To Us



SCOTT SEPTIC

scottseptic.com | 508.435.4168

Family Owned & Operated Serving the MetroWest Area since 1968

Bring fall color to your home's exterior

Fall is an opportunity to create an outdoor space that remains attractive well into the colder months.

Begin with the front entrance. A seasonal wreath, fall doormat, lanterns or a pair of containers filled with mums can create an inviting appearance without a major investment. Pumpkins and other gourds are also an easy way to add color to your front porch; and don't forget to incorporate some dried hydrangeas.

Planting is another option. Many shrubs, trees and perennials provide attractive fall foliage, berries or late-season interest. When selecting plants, consider their mature size as well as their appearance. A plant that looks perfect at the garden center may eventually outgrow a small space.

Planting trees and shrubs during cooler temperatures (and naturally moist soil) can give plants an opportunity to establish roots before the heat of the following summer, but beware of the first frost date (mid-to-late October).

Fall is for raking leaves but you don't have to remove them all. If the leaf layer is light (20% or less of your lawn), they will break down naturally, feed the soil, and shelter insects and birds. If leaves are moderate (up to 50%), you should mulch-mow them to speed up decomposition, prevent matting, and return nutrients to the soil. Any heavier leaf cover



can smother the turf, trap moisture, and encourage mold or pests.

Fall is also a good time to overseed your lawn but it should be done by early October.

Garden beds should be cleaned selectively rather than completely. The best practice is to delay garden cleanup until early spring, leaving seed heads and stems in tact to sustain wildlife throughout the coldest months. Some dried flowers (like asters, black-eyed Susans, and coneflowers) and ornamental grasses (switchgrass, maiden grass) provide winter interest and offer habitat for wildlife.

Finally, inspect walkways and steps before winter. Repair loose pavers, uneven surfaces and damaged handrails before snow and ice make those problems more hazardous, and more difficult for shoveling and plowing.



Lokal Construction

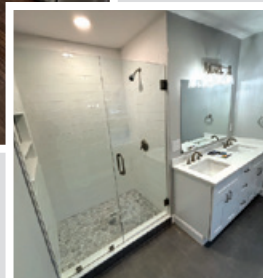
Quality Craftsmanship. Local Expertise.

Full-Service Residential Construction & Renovations

From concept to completion, we deliver high-quality workmanship with attention to detail you can trust.

Our Services

- Kitchen & Bathroom Renovations
- Full Home Renovations
- Custom Decks & Outdoor Living
- Flooring, Tile & Finish Work
- Additions & Remodeling Projects
- General Contracting & Repairs



Contact Us

📞 **508-963-5727**

✉ LokalConstruction@hotmail.com
LokalConstruction.com

Why Choose Lokal Construction?

- Reliable, professional & detail-oriented
- Clean & modern workmanship
- Clear communication from start to finish

Let your dreams be our project, with a local contractor you can trust.

HANSON PAINTING • TILING REMODELING

Family Owned Since 1983

A Recommended Service Award Winner by Readers of the Hometown Weekly!



Voted **#1** Painter in Medfield

- Interior & Exterior Painting Professionals
- Tiling • Flooring • Bathroom Remodels
- Kitchen Backsplashes

Family Owned and Operated
Fully Insured Honest & Dependable

Call today for a FREE Estimate

508-523-2512

📷 @hanson_painting_and_tiling

Great reasons to insulate water pipes

Homeowners want to do everything they can to protect their investment, and that includes both renovating a property to reflect recent trends and keeping up with routine maintenance to ensure a home does not fall into a state of disrepair.

Anticipating potential issues and planning for them is part of maintaining a home. Such anticipation is an acquired skill, but homeowners can use the experience of others to identify ways to prevent home-related issues before they arise. One issue homeowners may want to plan for is frozen pipes. The winter of 2025-2026 was notably cold. According to AccuWeather, the La Niña weather pattern was a driving force behind a particularly cold winter in various parts of the United States, including the northeast, midwest and mid-Atlantic regions. Temperatures in those regions were 10° to 15° F below normal, which AccuWeather notes laid the foundation for the most severe and frigid winter in nearly a decade.

The extreme cold that charac-

terized the winter of 2025-2026 forced some homeowners to confront issues they had not anticipated, including frozen pipes. Pipe insulation is an important part of home maintenance that some homeowners may not have been aware of as recently as early 2026, but the following are some notable reasons to add this to your home-related to-do list before winter returns.

- **Insulation prevents pipes from freezing.** Frozen water inside pipes can start what's essentially a chain reaction that can cause pipes to expand. When pipes expand, the resulting pressure can cause them to burst. By insulating pipes, homeowners can prevent them from freezing. Insulating pipes that are already behind a wall is not a simple job, so it's best left to a professional. But pipes that are along exterior walls should be insulated to ensure they do not freeze when temperatures drop and remain low. Pipes in attics, basements and crawl spaces may be exposed, and homeowners may be able to insulate these on



their own, though novices might still want to leave this important job to a professional.

- **Insulating pipes can save you money.** The United States Department of Energy reports that insulating hot water pipes is a notable way to save energy and money. According to the DOE, insulating water pipes reduces heat loss and can raise water temperature by as much as 2° to 4° F. That allows homeowners to lower the temperature setting on their water heaters, which saves money. Insulating pipes also re-

duces the time it takes for water to warm up when turning on a faucet or shower, which in turn leads to less water consumption and lower water bills.

- **Insulation can reduce the risk of mold growth.** Winter is not the only time of year it pays to have insulated pipes. According to the insulation experts at Aeroflex®, pipes are subject to mold growth. That can happen when pipes sweat in humid climates (think of a water bottle left out in the hot sun). The resulting condensation from sweat-

ing pipes can drip and lead to the growth of mold in surrounding areas, including within the walls. Mold growth in a home has been linked to various negative health outcomes, including respiratory issues. But insulation prevents the condensation that can lead to mold growth.

• **Insulation is inexpensive.** Homeowners who have grown accustomed to costly repairs and renovations should know that insulating pipes, particularly exposed pipes, is an inexpensive project. While it will cost more to insulate pipes within walls due to the extra work required to access such areas and address them once insulation has been installed, insulating those pipes, especially if they're along exterior walls, can greatly reduce the risk for potentially costly damage down the road.

Insulating pipes is a worthwhile undertaking for all homeowners, and can be particularly beneficial for those who live in areas with extreme weather in winter and summer.



Up to **\$9,750** toward your new heat pump.

Mass Save® instant rebate

up to **\$8,500**

Bryant® Factory Authorized rebate

\$500

FREE ecobee smart thermostat

\$750 VALUE

0% interest financing

60 months

TOTAL VALUE UP TO

\$9,750

CALL FOR YOUR FREE PROPOSAL

(508) 474-3220

Offer valid on qualifying Bryant® systems, minimum \$20,000 total investment. \$500 instant rebate via SumZero as a Bryant Factory Authorized Dealer. FREE ecobee thermostat (professionally installed, up to \$750 value) with qualifying installation. Mass Save® rebates depend on eligibility, confirmed at your in-home assessment. 0% financing for 60 months, subject to credit approval. Offer ends November 30, 2026. SumZero Energy Systems • Holliston, MA. Bryant® marks used with permission.



SCAN ME





Bryant FAD Instant Rebate

\$500

FREE ecobee

Thermostat

INSTALLED*

* installation includes c-wire

Robert Roofing and Gutters, Inc. – A family business built on trust and quality

By JENNIFER RUSSO

Purchasing a house is one of the greatest investments we make, and when it comes to protecting it, few things are more important than a solid roof over your head. A well-built and maintained roof helps preserve the home's structure, safeguarding the owners and providing peace of mind with all of the varied weather that New England is known for, from season to season.

Robert Roofing and Gutters has been a trusted company that has built its reputation on top-notch craftsmanship and an eye for detail that homeowners appreciate. Rooted in tradition, the company has a foundation of superior customer care, honesty, and a commitment to quality – doing things the right way, every time.

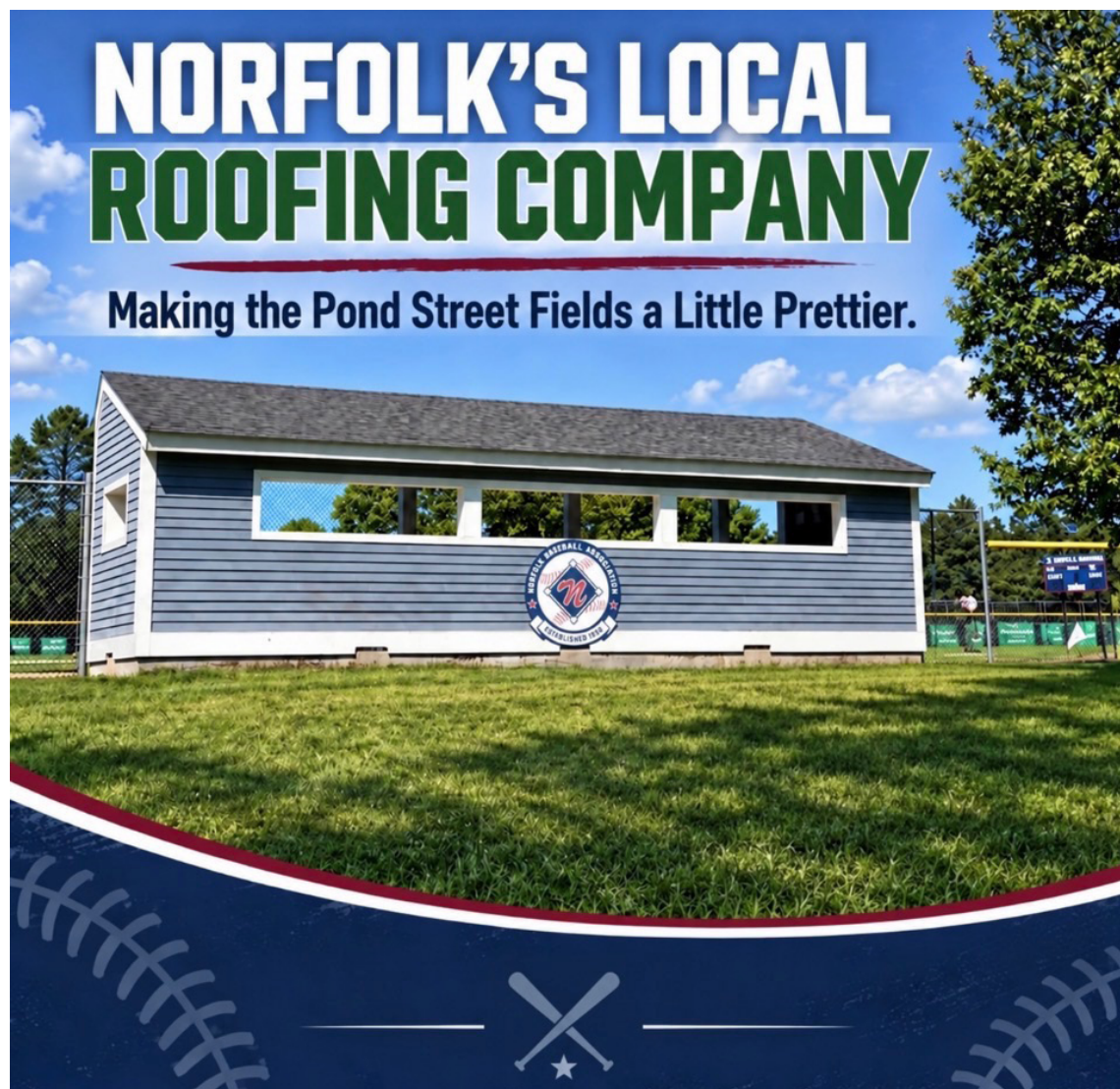
With the colder months coming, it is very important to ensure that your roof is in good condition. Having a roof evaluation should be part of everyone's annual checklist to best prepare for winter ice, snow, sleet, and potential high winds. Additionally, with the very rainy spring we had this year, homeowners should check to be sure their gutters are in good shape.

"I really recommend the installation of 6-inch gutters to maximize the amount of drainage, especially in the spring when you not only have a lot of rain,



but you also have a lot of snow melting from the roof of your home," says Rob. "Larger gutters can handle significantly more water, and this helps prevent overflow, which protects your siding and landscaping from damage. They are also less likely to clog, so will need fewer cleanings and will have a longer lifespan."

For the roof of your home, there are some things to look for that may signal the need for care, especially if it is an older home (20+ years old). Note if any shingles are curled or buckled, or missing altogether, and check if there are any fiberglass strands shining through on the shingles or granules in your gutters or at the end of downspouts. Any or all of these things could mean that you need repairs or replacement, and it's best to get this done before winter hits.



"Don't wait until spring to have your roof repaired or replaced, as doing so can exacerbate your problems. Any damage your roof has can only get worse during the winter. It's best to be proactive instead of dealing with emergency roof repairs at the last minute," shares Robert.

When warmer months return, having an estimate done to ensure that the winter elements didn't damage a roof is also recommended, as is making sure the roof has proper ventilation, which can provide many benefits, including reduced energy usage, improved air quality, temperature regulation, and help extend the life of your roof.

Aesthetics is another consideration for homeowners who may want something other than the standard roof color. Robert Roofing is particular about the materials they use, and one option for those who may want a pop of color to stand out a bit more in their neighborhood is the Owens Corning® line of shingles, which

come in various shades of green, blue, purple, and red.

Standing by their slogan of 'One call sends a roofer, not a salesman'. Robert feels very strongly that the focus should always be service over sales because the ultimate goal is to make sure you have a good roof AND save you money. This honest philosophy is built into the very fabric of his company's mission. If your roof can be restored, they will try their best to do that and not try to sell you a new one. That said, if you do need a new roof, their expert installers will make sure the job is executed flawlessly.

Robert Roofing works on both residential and commercial buildings. Their crew has years of experience with diverse types of roofing (asphalt, rubber, low-slope, specialty shingles, etc.) and the other services the company provides, such as gutter installation, coil stock metal coverage, soffits, and chimney repointing and flashing.

In addition to providing Nor-

folk and nearby communities with these services, Robert Roofing is enthusiastic about giving back to their local community as well. With a big heart for those living with addictions and recovering from substance abuse, the business is a dedicated supporter of sober living facilities in the area. Recently, they also donated materials and labor to the historic "Tramp House" in Norfolk, to honor the recently departed Thelma Ravinski, a longtime Norfolk resident who made many contributions and was a strong advocate for the town's history.

Robert Roofing and Gutters, Inc. offers roof inspections, installations, and repairs, as well as preventative maintenance, waterproofing, new gutters, window installations, and more. For a full list of services available or to obtain a free estimate, visit www.robertroofingandgutters.com or call 857-247-8709.

NEW ENGLAND REGLAZE

DON'T REPLACE YOUR OLD TUB, REGLAZE IT! TUBS, TILE SINKS AND MUCH MORE

NOW \$349
COLOR, TRAVEL, MAY APPLY.

SAVE \$100 THIS SPRING WITH AD

WE DO ANY TUB! CALL NOW

617-895-7771

www.newenglandreglaze.com

Reg. \$449

BBS A+ Rating

Fall and feeling cramped? Consider refinishing or repurposing a current space

Is it time to refinish your basement?

For homeowners who need additional living space, the basement (or attic) can be one of the most practical places to look.

A finished basement can become a playroom, family room, home office, exercise area, guest space or entertainment area. But before choosing paint colors and furniture, homeowners should determine whether the space is suitable for finishing. Things to consider:

- **Moisture.** Check for dampness, water stains, musty odors and evidence of previous flooding. Any water problem should be addressed before walls and flooring are installed. Moisture may also affect your flooring choice.

- **Layout:** Consider hiring a professional architect to help with design. Consider ceiling height, electrical service, heating and cooling, plumbing and emergency exits.

- **Local building codes:** Your municipality may have certain requirements for renovations (specific stair dimensions, egress, etc.) so be sure to check with your local building inspector.

Even if a full renovation is not in the budget this year, fall is a good time to develop a plan, and start addressing any issues that exist. Then, you can schedule a contractor for the spring – be sure to call the contractor as soon as you know when you'll be ready since they can book out months in advance.

As with any home improvement project, be sure to get multiple estimates and ask contractors about schedules, payment arrangements, insurance and references. A detailed written proposal can help homeowners compare bids more effectively.

Planning early does not mean committing to a project immediately. It simply gives homeowners

time to make informed decisions.

By the time spring arrives, you can be ready to move forward rather than just beginning the research process.

Make an underused room more useful

Fall can also be a good time to rethink how your current space works. If a basement renovation isn't in your plans, consider turning an underused room into a home office, craft room, reading room or combination guest-and-work space. A formal dining room might become a library or gathering space. Even a small room can become more functional with thoughtful planning.

Begin by removing items that are no longer needed. Decluttering makes it easier to determine what the room can realistically accommodate. Consider donating your items to a local charity either by dropping them off or



arranging pickup.

Next, consider the room's primary purpose. If it will be used as an office, adequate lighting, electrical outlets and a comfortable work surface should take priority. A craft room may require storage and durable work surfaces. Consider the latest crate craze where you can make rolling storage and workbenches out of wooden crates from local craft stores.

A guest room may need flexible furniture that can be used when visitors are not present.

Built-in shelving can make good use of awkward walls, but freestanding furniture can provide greater flexibility and often be installed for less money. For a bit of whimsy, consider a Mur-

phy (hidden) door bookcase.

Paint is another way to establish a new identity for the room. Remember, lighter colors can make small spaces feel larger, while deeper colors can create a cozy reading or relaxation area.

Do not forget lighting. A combination of overhead, task and accent lighting can make a room much more useful throughout the day. Don't forget under-cabinet lighting and motion sensing (USB-charged) lighting can make any space more user-friendly (and safer).

When considering a project like this, the goal is not necessarily to create another perfectly decorated room, it is to make the space serve a current need for the people who live in the house.

LiftMaster
POWERED BY myQ

Pro-level quality for your home

Upgrade to a new garage opener with a lifetime warranty.

Contact us for a quote.

Your trusted local professional service & installer.

LiftMaster

Jolicoeur
OVERHEAD DOORS
Family Owned & Operated Since 1994

GARAGE DOOR EXPERTS
Garage Doors • Openers • Service • Installation
745 S. Main Street, Bellingham
508-883-4522
MyGarageDoor.com





LICENSED
TITLE 5
INSPECTOR

J.C. Parmenter Inc.
Septic Systems
INSTALLED CLEANED REPAIRED

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1920

\$10 OFF
SEPTIC TANK CLEANING
with same-day payment

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE
24 Hour Emergency Support

 **508-435-3381 • Hopkinton • JCParmenterSeptic.com**

Your home is ready for fall, is your pet?

As temperatures begin to drop and daylight hours grow shorter, homeowners aren't the only ones who need to prepare for the changing seasons. A few simple home-improvement projects can make fall and winter more comfortable and safer for four-legged family members.

October is a good time to concentrate on comfort and organization. Replace lightweight pet beds with insulated options; add washable, non-slip paw-friendly mats near entrances; and create an indoor play area for days when outdoor time is limited. A designated spot for coats, boots, towels, leashes, and other pet supplies can also help keep mud and clutter under control.

This is also a good time to clean pet bedding, toys and food bowls. Draft stoppers around doors and windows can reduce cold air entering the house, while additional storage can keep food and supplies dry and easily accessible.

From mid-October through

early November, homeowners can focus on weatherproofing areas pets use outside. Garages, mudrooms and other areas where pets spend time may benefit from additional insulation.

Pet gates can keep animals away from muddy areas, and outdoor runs can be improved with raised platforms and wind barriers.

Outdoor lighting is also important as darkness arrives earlier. Motion sensor lights in outdoor spaces can be helpful, especially for senior dogs.

By mid-November, concentrate on projects that will be difficult to complete once snow and freezing temperatures arrive: Weatherproof a doggy door, establish a safe path to the yard or outdoor run, and consider heated water bowls designed specifically for outdoor use.

Taking care of these projects in the fall can help keep pets comfortable now and throughout the winter months.

Why an insulated attic is a good attic

As homeowners address energy efficiency around their homes, they may want to put attics at the top of their list. Because heat naturally rises during the winter and also infiltrates the roof during the summer, a roof with insufficient insulation can be energy inefficient. Many experts attest that upgrading attic insulation is a practical and cost-effective home improvement.

A desire to reduce energy bills is a primary motivator when installing attic insulation. Data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® program says homeowners can save an average of 15 percent on heating and cooling costs, or roughly 11 percent on their total energy bills, by air sealing and insulating attics and crawl spaces. Standalone attic insulation projects frequently achieve high rates of return.

Beyond financial matters, attic insulation also creates a more

comfortable and stable indoor climate. Attic insulation will buffer the interior from extreme temperature swings. This can help preserve the integrity of the home. In cold climates, attic insulation will limit the occurrence of ice dams, which form at the eaves when heat inside living spaces escapes to the roof. Ice dams can cause water to back up under shingles and even tear away gutters.

The U.S. Department of Energy indicates residential and commercial buildings combined account for 40 percent of the nation's total energy consumption. By utilizing attic insulation and creating a proper thermal barrier, homes can draw less power from regional grids and burn less fuel locally.

Attic insulation may not be as glamorous as a room remodel, but it is an important component of a safe, comfortable and energy-efficient home.



CHARRON

Tree Service
Quality Timely Service!
508-883-8823
FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
1060 Pulaski Blvd
Bellingham, MA 02019

**Tree Removal • Pruning/Trimming
Storm Damage • Land Clearing
Stump Grinding • Seasoned Firewood**

KEVIN LEMIRE - OWNER
All Employees Are Covered Under Workers' Comp Insurance

CharronTreeService.com

How to prepare your home for fall

Where does the time go? We're not sure but it's fall already. Experts agree that the number one item on your checklist should be clean and inspect gutters, followed closely by seal gaps and cracks, clean the dryer vent, and have your chimney cleaned.

With the help of Better Homes and Gardens, Family Handyman, and House Beautiful, here are ways to prepare your home for the fall, ranked in order of difficulty.

Easy Tasks

- ❑ Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- ❑ Check for drafts, seal exterior gaps and cracks
- ❑ Clean/replace furnace filter
- ❑ Shut off and drain outdoor faucets and hoses
- ❑ Reverse ceiling fans
- ❑ Stock up on winter supplies
- ❑ Swap out seasonal decor/textiles
- ❑ Change humidifier settings or clean units



- ❑ Test outdoor lighting, replace bulbs as needed
- ❑ Store summer clothes and rotate closets
- ❑ Clean and store outdoor furniture/grill
- ❑ Schedule chimney/fireplace cleaning
- ❑ Schedule furnace/heating system service (you can change filter)
- ❑ Bleed/drain hot water radiators
- ❑ For mini-splits, wash/change filters
- ❑ Apply pipe insulation/wrap (foam pipe wrap is lightweight,

easy to install)

- ❑ Test generator, check battery, clean terminals, clear vents, remove debris

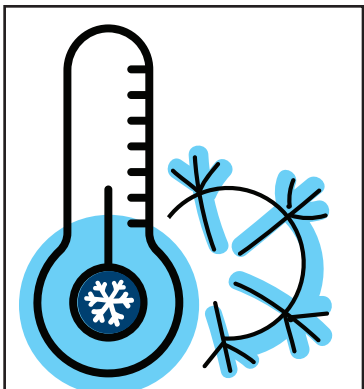
Moderate Tasks

- ❑ Inspect and clean gutters and downspouts, consider gutter guards
- ❑ Clean dryer vent
- ❑ Check windows and doors (including garage doors) for drafts, add weatherstripping or film as needed
- ❑ Lock windows and doors to create seal to prevent leaks
- ❑ Keep window wells clean

- ❑ Check/test sump pump
- ❑ Service lawn equipment before storage
- ❑ Rake leaves, mulch gardens with leaves
- ❑ Aerate, fertilize, overseed lawn; cut short one last time
- ❑ Remove ivy growing on exterior of house
- ❑ Deep clean appliances, including oven
- ❑ Check handrails and steps for sturdiness
- ❑ Plant spring bulbs
- ❑ Check insulation in attic/basement, add more as needed
- ❑ Fix cracks in driveway
- ❑ Test winter equipment

Difficult Tasks

- ❑ Check roof for loose/damaged shingles
- ❑ Remove pine needle buildup from roof, skylights, gutters
- ❑ Inspect and trim large trees near your house



It's New England: enjoy fall, think snow

- We never know when the first snow will fall so be snow ready.
- ❑ Buy a shovel and have it easily accessible (garage, mudroom, etc.)
 - ❑ Tune up, and gas/charge up, your snowblower
 - ❑ Prepare an emergency car kit (jumper cables, sand/kitty litter, blanket, water, non-perishable snacks)
 - ❑ Keep your vehicle fuel tank more than half full or vehicle battery more than half charged; monitor tire pressure as it will drop during cold weather.

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM RODENT INFESTATION!



Rodents are HOUSE HUNTING
Make sure they don't choose yours!



Call Jim for
FREE INSPECTION

WPC PEST CONTROL
508-435-2211
nobugsnopests.com



LICENSED & INSURED | ALL WORK GUARANTEED
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

How to keep rodents out of your home this season

As the cold weather approaches, homeowners need to make sure their families will be safe. Now is the time when mice & rats are looking to find a warm place to settle down for the winter and it could be in your house!

WPC Pest Control shows homeowners throughout the Metro-West area ways to prevent rodent infestations and how to protect their homes from these dangerous invaders.

Mice and rats can carry and transmit numerous diseases like Hantavirus that may pose health risks to people and pets. Rodent urine and droppings can also contaminate insulation and other areas of the home, potentially contributing to respiratory concerns without you ever knowing it.

Rodents can find their way indoors through small openings and may nest in attics, insulation, basements and other secluded areas.

"Disgusting odors coming from insulation in attics and basements is a sure sign that rodents are present, which can make your family sick" said Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC Pest and Termite Control.

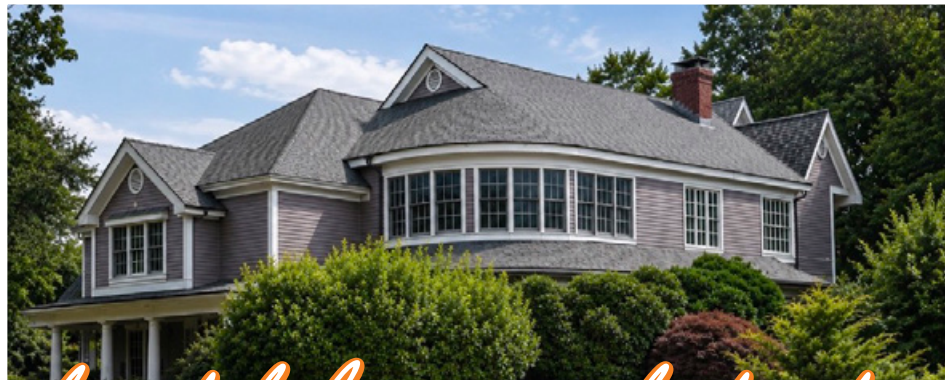
Entry points need to be blocked off but finding them can be difficult. That's why you need to call a professional to point out such issues. An inspection from a technician with years of experience is an important step in protecting your home.

Call Jim at WPC Pest Control today at **508-435-2211** to schedule your free inspection. Visit us at **NoBugsNoPests.com**

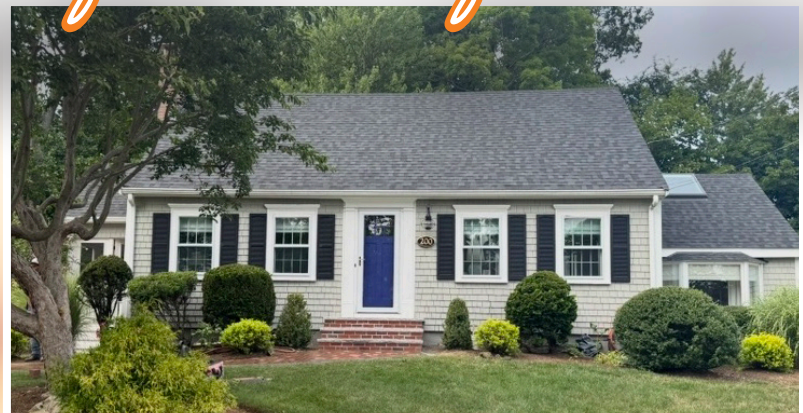


Jim Mazzuchelli, owner, WPC Pest and Termite Control

WILL YOUR ROOF WITHSTAND ANOTHER NEW ENGLAND WINTER?



Keeping the community beautiful, one roof at a time!



ROBERT ROOFING & GUTTERS

New Roof Installation
Fascia, Soffit, Trim • Siding
Seamless Gutters • Chimney Re-Leading
Window Installation • Skylight Installation

ONE CALL SENDS A ROOFER, NOT A SALESMAN

- Free Estimates
- Licensed & Insured
- Serving the South Shore
& Surrounding Areas

Robert Greene
857-247-8709

robertroofingandgutters.com
No Gimmicks, Just Honest Pricing

