

# Remodeler's Scratch Pad

News and Notes from the Around the House Crew

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(978) 455-1806

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## Articles:

- Surviving Construction – Part 1
- Peel-and Stick Decals – Design Fad
- Recirculate pennies and nickels
- Heads and Hearts
- Massachusetts Contractor Laws - HIC Registration
- Dog Days are Here

## Surviving Construction – Part 1

In this multi-part series of articles, we will outline the challenges of a medium to large sized construction project and give some tips on how to make the process go much more smoothly.

If you have never subjected yourself and the rest of your household to the dust, noise, emotions, and chaos of a project like this, you may start the process with the optimism of a newlywed. You can't imagine anything going wrong and the contractor you've chosen will, of course, always be there to solve every complaint, no matter how minor, immediately.

The truth is there will be problems (hopefully minor). There will be delays and processes that you don't understand. You will get tired of the disruption of your home and you are likely to question why you didn't just decide to move. It must be easier!

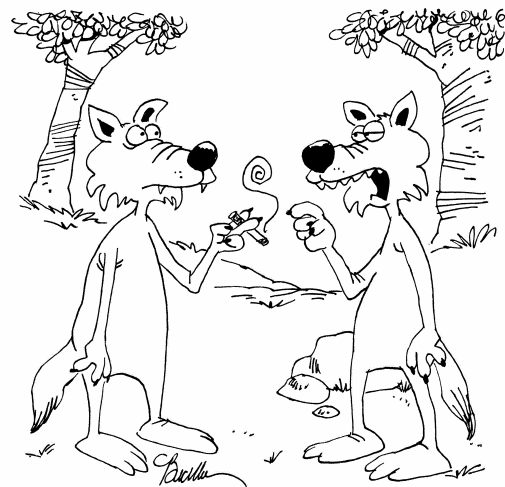
I encourage you to speak with friends, relatives, and co-workers to get their stories about the roller coaster ride you are about to undertake so that you may go into the process with your eyes open.

Home owners start out on an emotional "high" as they look at the wonderful fixtures and finishes at the home center, on TV shows, or magazines. Many owners have their hopes dashed after they get a proposal.

Their dream project will cost much more than they expected and they feel disappointed that they will have to give up some of their dream in order to afford it.

Some owners stop there, others keep calling contractors, hoping to find one that won't "rip them off."

Next issue: The specification and proposal process.



"You may think smoking is cool now, but when you start huffing and puffing and you're not even trying to blow a pig's house in..."



*You may be able to remove dents in your wooden furniture with your clothes iron. Place a drop of water in the dent, cover it with a damp towel and apply heat with your iron for a few seconds..*

## Peel-and-Stick Decals – Design Fad

If you love a little playful decorating, but you also like to change your mind, look into the new rage of decal decorating.

New products include removable murals designed to cover

whole walls, as well as playful stickers that add a touch of whimsy to a corner.

Check out Urban Outfitters ([urbanoutfitters.com](http://urbanoutfitters.com)), the Danish company Ferm Living

([fermlivingshop.us](http://fermlivingshop.us)), and [whatisblik.com](http://whatisblik.com).

Themes for kids' rooms grow up with them, starting with farm animals and progressing to dinosaurs and sports themes.

## Recirculate Pennies and Nickels

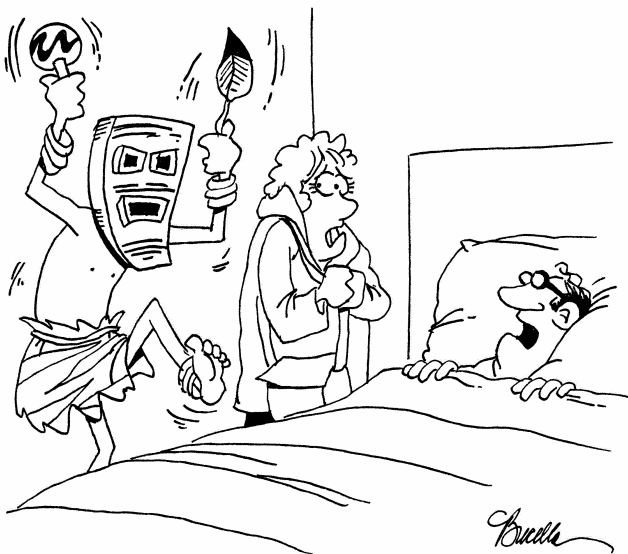
Because of high copper prices, it now costs the U.S. Mint 1.3 cents to make a penny and 7.7 cents for a nickel.

It is estimated that there are some 150 billion coins going unused. That's about \$90 per house standing in jars and loose in drawers and sofa cushions.

According to the Sustainable Research Group, there would be big environmental benefits if just 10

percent of dormant coins were recirculated.

Water savings at the mint would be equal to about 82 million showers. Energy savings could light 4.1 million bulbs for 1,000 hours each CO2 emissions equal to those from 12,619 cars would be kept out of the atmosphere.



**"The jury's still out on it's effectiveness, but it is covered by insurance."**

## "Heads" and "Hearts"

According to life coach Lauren Zander, there are "head" people and "heart" people.

Head people live in a logical state that lets them simply resolve problems quickly.

Heart people must first work through their sensitivity, empathy

and compassion to find a solution.

Heads and hearts need each other because head people, while good at self-discipline, may not find it easy to have fun and heart people are really good at knowing how to enjoy life, but find structure difficult.

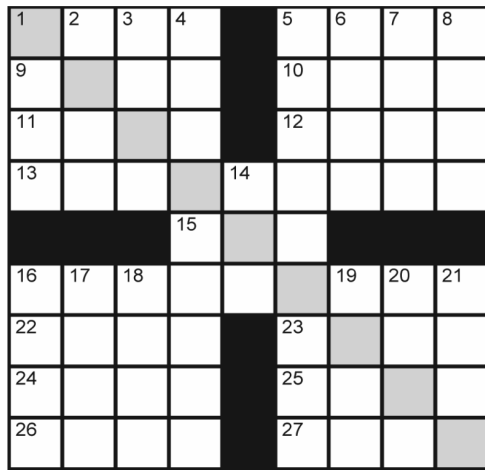
Summer Grills

Across

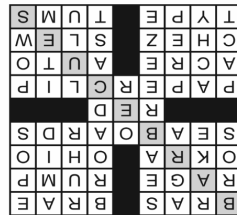
- 1. Bikini parts
- 5. Highlands hillside
- 9. Anger
- 10. Beef cut
- 11. Creole vegetable
- 12. Its quarter says "Birthplace of Aviation Pioneers"
- 13. Coasts
- 15. Cincy player
- 16. Office need
- 22. "God's Little \_\_\_\_"
- 23. Garage occupant
- 24. At the home of
- 25. A huge amount
- 26. Use a keyboard
- 27. Stomachs, for short

Down

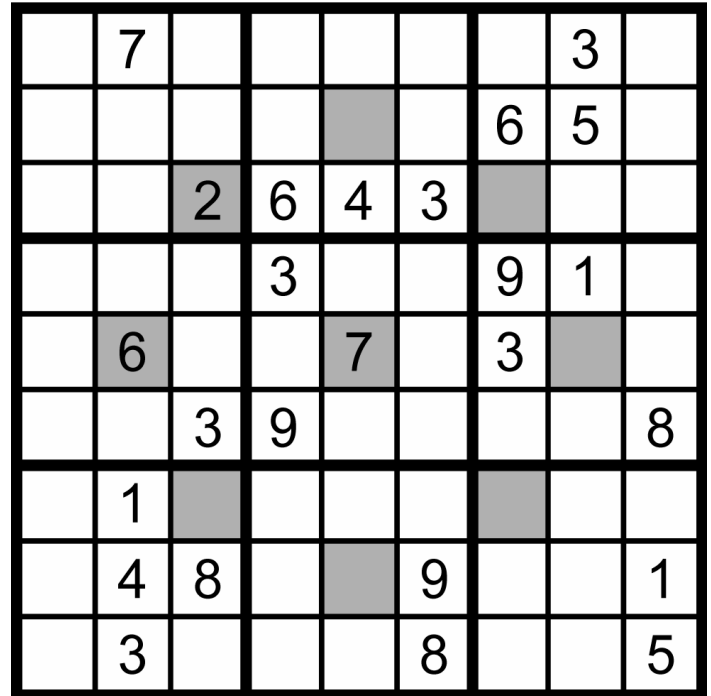
- 1. Warner \_\_\_\_
- 2. Autumn tool
- 3. Indian tourist city
- 4. Summer cocktail with vodka and fruit juices



- 5. Air a show
- 6. European coal area
- 7. In the thick of
- 8. Heroic poem
- 14. "\_\_\_\_ the fields we go"
- 16. Agreement
- 17. Hurting
- 18. Get ready, for short
- 19. Humdinger
- 20. Big-ticket \_\_\_\_
- 21. Captives



The headline is a clue to the answer in the diagonal.



## New Massachusetts "Specialty Licenses"

The latest edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code (7<sup>th</sup> edition) identifies several new types of specialty Construction Supervisor Licenses.

As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, anyone who contracts to do roofing, windows, siding, install solid fuel-burning appliances, or demolition must also possess a Construction Supervisors License

in Massachusetts.

Contractors who already have a restricted or unrestricted Construction Supervisors License (Wayne has an unrestricted license) will be able to continue to do this work without an additional license.

Contractors already in business may apply for a license without

an exam due to the "grandfathering" clause implemented by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards.

Ask about licensing if you contact a contractor about any of these types of projects.

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"Sainthood emerges when you can listen to someone's tale of woe and not respond with a description of your own."

- Andrew V. Mason

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## Dog Days are Here.

The term Dog Days dates back to ancient times when people studied the sky and relied on the heavens and the stars for navigation and spiritual sustenance.

These ancients looked into the night sky, before modern lights obscured the stars, and imagined that the constellations formed images of bears (Ursa Major and Ursa Minor), a bull (Taurus) and dogs (Canis Major and Canis Minor).

Sirius, called the dog star, was the brightest star in the night sky. It was so bright that the

### *News From the Crew...*

Over the past month or two, we have been using more Bagsters to get rid of our project debris.

The Bagster, is a 3 cubic yard bag that you purchase at a

Romans thought it added heat to the earth.

In late summer, Sirius rises and sets with the sun, furthering the notion that the heat of the combined stars created the muggy, sultry weather. They called the 20-day alignment of the sun and Sirius, the Dog Days.

This alignment can vary in exact dates with the latitude of the observer and by the annual variances in the equinoxes.

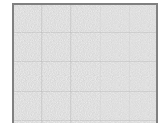
Most of us know only that this period is too hot for a good

home center or hardware store. Fill it with your construction debris and call the Bagster company with your credit card to arrange pickup and disposal of the contents.

disposition and we'll be looking for ways to stay cool during those 20 days. We could go for a swim, take a vacation to a cooler climate, go to an air-conditioned theater, or spend time leisurely shopping at the air conditioned mall. Dress in cool clothes and don't overexert.

But if you are still uncomfortable, you can blame it on the big dog and that familiar old star, the sun.

We find it more convenient to dispose of waste that municipal collection won't accept but isn't a large enough amount to warrant a "normal" dumpster.



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