



Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

Create Your Own Man Cave or She Shed



Not sure what to do with that extra room, completed basement or external space on your property? A “man cave” or “she shed” could be the ultimate addition to your home.

An enhanced man cave or she shed allows you or guests to kick back and relax, transforming an unused space into a central hub, especially if you include these must-haves.

- 1 Quality entertainment system:** Make sure your space has modern entertainment offerings. If you're a TV or movie fan, make sure you include a sizeable screen so you can enjoy your media. If you're a music fan, a proper sound or stereo system is a must.
- 2 Warm lighting:** Don't settle for basic overhead bulbs. Invest in proper fixtures with ambient fade lighting, and don't look past other accents like table lamps and uplighting.
- 3 Activity space:** Whether you love games or crafts, having space dedicated to these hobbies is a great addition. Consider including game tables, like billiards or foosball, or a creative craft nook to allow your interests to take center stage in the space.
- 4 Beverage storage:** Invest in a proper mini fridge with a glass door or, even better, a mini cart. If you have the space, a minibar is sure to impress.
- 5 Comfortable seating:** Forego the old couch and recliners for contemporary furniture to give your space a more refined look. Don't be afraid to splurge on a leather sectional and a stylish armchair or two. Your guests will take notice.

Choosing the Best De-icer

Ice on your porch steps, sidewalk and driveway can be more than just an annoyance. To avoid delays on your work commute and potential injury, keep some de-icer on hand this winter. The question is, which one to choose?

Sodium chloride: Also known as rock salt, sodium chloride works well when temperatures are above 15 degrees. But be careful—it can also damage your lawn and concrete surfaces and can cause health issues if your pets ingest it.

Calcium chloride: This de-icing salt works in sub-zero temperatures, down to minus 20 degrees. Considered by many to be the best deicing option for homeowners, calcium chloride can still be potentially hazardous to plants and animals.

Magnesium chloride: Effective at temperatures as low as 5 degrees, magnesium chloride doesn't release as much chloride as rock salt or calcium chloride, making it the least toxic of these options.

Anti-icer spray: If you'd rather be proactive about de-icing, you can use this chemical spray on surfaces when winter storms are heading your way. Many brands of these liquid de-icers claim to be safe for lawns and nontoxic to animals, which makes them popular among pet owners.

Sand and a shovel: If you're anti-chemical or just looking to take an old-school approach, sand won't melt your ice, but it will give your boots some grip so you don't fall while clearing your driveway of ice with a shovel.



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Adding Crown Molding to Your Space

Are you tired of staring at your plain and boring walls and ceilings? If so, it's time to elevate your space with crown molding. Crown

molding is a decorative trim that can add elegance and sophistication to any room. Although it may look intimidating, installing crown molding is quite simple.

1 Measure and plan

Before you purchase your crown molding, measure the perimeter of your room and decide where you want to place the molding. Be sure to consider the corners because these areas will require angled cuts. Then, calculate the total linear footage of crown molding needed for your project.

2 Gather materials and tools

The tools needed for this project

include a chop saw, coping saw, nail gun, tape measure, caulk gun and a pencil. Materials include crown molding, adhesive and finishing nails.

3 Make cuts and install

Using a chop saw, cut the crown molding pieces to the correct length and degree angle. If you're new to chop saws, it's best to practice on a few extra pieces of molding before making any cuts for installation.

Once all the pieces are cut, apply adhesive on the back side of the molding and press it into place firmly. Secure the molding into the wall with finishing nails using a nail gun. Remember to use a stud finder when nailing the molding to the walls.

4 Cut angles for corners

The most challenging part of installing crown molding is cutting the angled pieces to fit together seamlessly on the

inside and outside corners. This is where the coping saw comes in handy. To make an inside corner cut, use the coping saw to cut the opposite shape from the molding profile. For outside corners, miter the corners at a 45-degree angle.

5 Finishing touches

To complete the installation, fill gaps or nail holes with caulk and paint or stain the crown molding as desired.



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