

Quality craftsmanship

Beautiful details

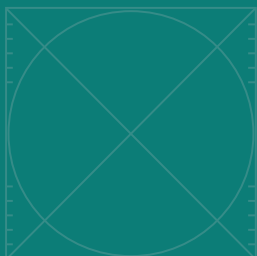
Artisans' skill



Residential Remodeling:



- Additions
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Bedrooms and  
Master Suites
- Attic Conversions
- Home Offices, Studies,  
Studios and Libraries
- Family Rooms
- Porches
- And more...



*"Celebrating 30 years of service to Twin Cities Homeowners."*

# The Silver Bulletin

Helpful and Interesting Information for Homeowners

## Some of What's Inside

- ▶ Painting Tips
- ▶ Silver Bullet in the *Star Tribune*

- ▶ Tips for Selecting Bathroom and Shower Fixtures
- ▶ Ideas for Kids' Rooms — Decorating
- ▶ Seasonal Reminders

## Painting Tips

*Continued from previous page*

Professional painters and paint stores are great sources for good advice when you're getting ready to do some painting. For larger projects in your home, it may be easier to find a professional painter, remodeler or handyman service to do the job for you. They can take care of all preparation, work, and clean up for you. ■



**EARLY FALL 2006  
INSIDE**

- ▶ **Painting Tips**
- ▶ **Silver Bullet in the *Star Tribune***
- ▶ **Tips for Selecting Bathroom and Shower Fixtures**
- ▶ **Ideas for Kids' Rooms — Decorating**
- ▶ **Seasonal Reminders**



**Member:**

National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI)

Remodelers Advantage Roundtable

Minnesota BBB

**Painting Tips**

***Types of Paint Finishes***

When painting a room you should always choose your type of paint based on the room's use. Will there be high traffic? What about moisture? Will there be children playing in it? And will the room be used for food preparation? It is difficult to choose the right paint without knowing how the room will be used.

Flat finish has very little shine to it. It is not recommended for children's rooms because it is difficult to clean. However, it does allow for easy touchups. Flat finish is normally used for ceilings and areas with low traffic. If you intend to hang pictures, this is a good choice since there is little shine to distract from the art or photos.

Eggshell finish has a subtle shine to it, much like the shine on the surface of an egg. This finish hides imperfections reasonably well and is fairly easy to clean. It is a good choice for all-purpose rooms that will be gently used.



Semi gloss finishes are good for high traffic areas that will need to be cleaned often because they are stain resistant and easy to wipe clean. In rooms that will need to be cleaned often, such as bathrooms or kitchens, semi gloss is a good choice. It's also good for doors and trim.

Gloss is the most durable and easiest to clean. Because of its durability, it's the best choice for high traffic areas, doors, moldings, and trim. However, due to its

*Continued on page 3*

**Silver Bullet in the *Star Tribune***

Silver Bullet was recently featured in the *Star Tribune*. The article, "Small Business: The fine art of home renovation," discussed Terry and Gary's fine arts training and background, and how it has helped them grow and manage a successful design and build remodeling firm. It also covered Silver Bullet's rebound after the market downturn that began about two years ago.

In the article, Terry and Gary credit their artistic sensibilities as one of the tools that has helped Silver Bullet stand out in a competitive industry. Another tool is their ability to communicate with others, a skill they also developed while studying fine arts at the University of Minnesota.

The industry downturn was initially a challenge for Silver Bullet. However we



came back strong and are heading towards our best year ever.

The article was in the August 28, 2006 *Star Tribune* business section. We would like to thank the writer Todd Nelson and the *Star Tribune* for taking the time to interview and photograph Terry and Gary and for the great article on Silver Bullet.

## Tips for Selecting Bathroom and Shower Fixtures



Thanks to the increasing popularity of bathroom renovations, there is a wide variety of bathroom and shower fixtures for homeowners like you to choose from. However, that vast number of choices often leaves homeowners overwhelmed. We will help walk you through your selection, but it's still helpful to have an idea of what style you are interested in.

Traditional styles tend to give your bathroom a formal, historical look. Some popular traditional styles are country, colonial, and Victorian. Vanities are typically made of porcelain or stone,

with wooden cabinets. Sink and shower fixtures are typically porcelain and brass, chrome or nickel with a variety of embellishments. Tubs with claw feet represent the most elegant of traditional bathtubs, but built-in bathtubs are also popular with some homeowners.

Modern styles, often either angular or streamlined, blend well with minimalist aesthetics and high-tech environments. Vanities are high gloss metal, enamel, or stone for a very clean, bold look. Some homeowners also choose frosted glass vanities. Pedestal sinks that show off the plumbing and waterfall faucets are also popular. Sink and shower fixtures do not always have embellishments, but may feature geometric or swirl designs. Modern style bathtubs can range from unusually shaped whirlpool tubs to very angular rectangular tubs.

A large majority of the homes in our area are transitional styles of the 1920's,

30's, 40's, and 50's. They have their roots in traditional styles but branch out towards new inspirational sources that take form into a bolder, modern look. Art Deco, Art Nouveau, and Arts and Crafts are popular transitional styles. They tend to be more streamlined than traditional styles, but more ornate than modern styles.

When you are choosing bathroom and shower fixtures, also try to think ahead. Who will be using this bathroom in the future? Will young children or older adults be living in your home? If so, choose fixtures that will be easier for them to use. For example, lever handles rather than cross handles are much easier to grasp for children with small hands or older adults with arthritis. Small adjustments to your plans now will allow you to incorporate these modifications seamlessly. ■

## Ideas for Kids' Rooms — Decorating

Decorating children's rooms can be different from decorating any other room in your home. The themes and colors you can choose are only limited by you and your child's imagination. As you begin planning, talking with your children and finding out what they want in their new room is a good starting point. By working their interests into the room design, you can give your children a fun place to sleep, play, and study.

There are two main schools of thought when it comes to designing a child's room. Some prefer theme rooms that transform the bedroom into a coordinated kids-only zone. Others say that it's best if the parents provide the basic elements of a room (furniture, painted walls, storage space) and let the children explore their own decorating styles through posters and toys. You know what's best for your child, so it's really up to you. Young children may enjoy a themed room while older ones would probably prefer if you let them take more control.

If you are designing a theme room for your child, try to avoid using specific cartoon characters (except for posters). While your child may love their favorite show now, what happens if they lose interest in it six months to a year down the road? Instead, try to use topics that can grow with your child. Topics like the ocean, medieval castles, and outer space are all great themes that can grow as your child grows and make their room truly unique. In an outer space themed room, you could paint the walls with stars and planets. Cover the ceiling with glow-in-the-dark constellations. And there are even furniture companies that specialize in themed beds and desks. Themed bedrooms only take a little research, planning, and imagination.

If you feel your child is ready to take charge of the decorating, then help them by providing the "canvas". Paint the walls either in white, or a color you can agree upon. Then let your child decorate the room with their own posters, toys, and other knick knacks. They'll create a theme all on their own.



For furniture, look for unfinished or gently used desks, dressers, and chairs that you can let your child paint with their own unique style. The advantage of letting your child design their room is that they can easily change it as they grow and mature.

However you choose to decorate your child's room, always remember to practice safety while decorating. Supervise all painting and wall decorating. Also, use strong furniture, sturdy shelves, and kid-safe lighting and electronics. ■

high sheen, imperfections in the surface will be very visible.

There are also various paints and primers that are designed to resist mold or withstand high temperatures. If your room will be exposed to unusually high amounts of heat or moisture, consider looking into these specialty paints

### **Wall Preparation**

Few people realize that one of the most important parts of a beautiful paint job is properly preparing the painting surfaces before you begin. Painting is a lot more work than most of us would think. If the wall is not properly prepared beforehand, the paint could look uneven, show imperfections in the wall, bubble, chip, or peel well before its time.

#### **How to prepare your wall:**

1. Remove all artwork, picture frames, etc. from your walls. Move furniture away from walls and out of the room. If furniture cannot be removed from the room, cover it with a protective plastic sheet.
2. Place a drop cloth on the floor. Be cautious if using a plastic sheet as it can become slippery if paint is spilled on it.
3. Turn off the electricity and remove all lights, switch plates, and outlet covers from the walls.
4. Thoroughly clean the walls with tri-sodium phosphate (TSP) and a large clean sponge. Be sure to wear gloves. Rinse the walls with clean water and let dry overnight.
5. Line edges of doors, moldings, and floors with tape specifically designed for painting. This will prevent drips and splatters from ruining the taped areas and will prevent the tape adhesive from causing damage.
6. In many cases, a primer coat is needed before the wall can be painted, depending on the type and condition of the surface. Do not skip this step if it is needed.
7. The wall has been properly prepared. You can now begin to paint!

### **Clean Up**

Below are some useful tips on cleaning up after painting your home.

**Preparation:** Avoid messes before they happen. Make sure to lay down drop cloths before you begin painting.

**Simple Clean Up:** After the paint has dried, remove your drop cloths. Carefully remove the painter's tape, as it can sometimes remove some of the new paint as well. Dried paint on windows, tile, or glass can be scraped off with a paint scraper that uses a single-edge razor blade.

**Brushes and Rollers:** Wash your brushes in warm soapy water before the paint dries.

If the paint does dry, use vinegar to soften the paint. To keep your brushes soft, soak them for a short time in fabric softener. After the brushes have been completely cleaned, hang them to dry.



**Clothes and Carpeting:** Paint on clothing and carpeting can be difficult to remove. (The best thing to do is wear clothes that can be damaged and put drop cloths down on the floor.) On your clothes, try scrubbing with a nail brush. For your carpet, blot, don't scrub. If it's a small area, it may be better to simply trim that spot off after it dries.

**Yourself:** Rubbing baby oil on your skin before you shower will help the paint wash off easier. Wear gloves while painting to prevent paint from dripping on your hands.

**Extra Paint:** Never pour paint down the drain, on the ground, or in a garbage can. Paint is considered a hazardous waste and should be disposed of properly. Contact your local government to learn about waste disposal programs in your area. Or, if there is a large amount of paint left over, consider donating it to a local school, church, or community center.

*Continued on next page*



## **Seasonal Reminders**

- **Change Furnace or HVAC Filters.** If filters are not changed often enough, they can become clogged. This forces your furnace or HVAC system to work harder and less efficiently to maintain airflow. Change or clean filters monthly or following the unit's instructions.

## **Thank You**

We'd like to thank Ellen and Jerry Gallagher for asking us to design and build their lower level remodel. This project included a billiard room and a TV/Family room. This is their second project with Silver Bullet.

We'd also like to thank Dan and Ann Monahan for asking us to design and build their lower level family entertainment room.

In addition, thank you Martha O'Hara and staff for referring Silver Bullet to Joellen and Jim Kaster. And thank you Kristy Egan for referring Silver Bullet to Diane and Mike McDonnell and Tina Wilcox.

The majority of projects for new clients that Silver Bullet does every year come from past clients and company friends referring new homeowners to us. We are very grateful for your referrals. When you refer someone to Silver Bullet who becomes a client of ours, we will show you our appreciation with an American Express Gift Card worth \$250.