



America's Master Handyman® Glenn Haege

follow us:

Get help from the Handyman:

Search

[Homepage](#)
[Radio Show Info](#)
[Sponsor Info](#)
[Columns](#)


Listen Here! -- January 24, 2015

- ▶ Handyman Show audio archive
- ▶ Upcoming shows and guests

Publication date: 04/04/2014

[▶ Click here for a printer-friendly version](#)

Transform a spare room to fit your needs, lifestyle

Having a spare room in a home can present a great opportunity to transform the space into something that fits your lifestyle. And with many empty nesters now having unused space after the kids are grown and gone, room transformation is becoming a very popular home project.

Transforming a spare bedroom into a "guest room" is a fairly easy DIY project that can be accomplished with some paint and wallpaper, new carpeting and a new bed. But for others, that room is like a blank canvass to a painter, with far more possibilities than just using it as a bedroom.

"One of the most popular projects people are doing with a spare bedroom is turning it into a walk-in closet complete with a chandelier for lighting and some seating and other furniture," said Dawn Orzech, an interior designer with Design Everything, (734) 207-7709. "I also see spare rooms transformed into home offices or even hobby rooms for women who sew or do scrapbooking projects."

The basement is another room in the house that can be transformed now that the kids and their toys have moved on. That's why you see more people remodeling basements to turn them into man caves or entertainment areas complete with home theater systems, audio listening rooms and game rooms.

In addition to transforming a room, Joe Aiello at Pine Building, (248) 539-9600, www.pinebuilding.com, said he is seeing people go beyond that to expand their current living space.

"Sometimes Mom or Dad will come to live with them, and they will give them one of the larger bedrooms and then have us build a new master suite for themselves," Aiello said. "We are also seeing people expanding their kitchen space to open it up and make it more of an area to entertain, and even adding second story additions to give them the room they always wanted without having to move."

Robert Gurinowitsch, chief operating officer for HandyPro, (734) 254-9160, www.handypro.com, said that there is a trend towards generational families moving in together and the need to renovate the home to make it easier for Mom or Dad to live comfortably in their home.

"We have done a lot of jobs recently where we are using part of the attached garage space to add a studio suite with a bedroom and kitchen for an elderly parent to live in," Gurinowitsch said. "While we continue to do a lot of home modifications for senior citizens, such as installing wheelchairs ramps and lifts or renovating a bathroom, about 15 percent of our jobs are related to these types of room additions."

"Many people aren't worried about what the next owner will think and just want a room that they can enjoy now," Orzech said. "And often we can design it so it could be transformed back to the original space if needed."

Now that I started you thinking about your living space, take the next step and brag about it!

If you would like to suggest a question for this column, e-mail askglenn@masterhandyman.com. If you want to talk to Glenn Haege, call his "Handyman Show" on WJR-AM (760) at (866) ASK GLENN, (866) 275-4536, between noon and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The "Handyman Show" can be heard on more than 130 radio stations.

Note: This article was accurate at the date of publication. However, information contained in it may have changed. If you plan to use the information contained herein for any purpose, verification of its continued accuracy is your responsibility.

20 most recent Handyman Columns

[Handyman: Newer paints lack toxic VOC fumes](#)

[Humidity is your friend in winter](#)

[Availability of remodeling products varies](#)

[Don't delay on project planning](#)

[Plan ahead to clear snow and ice successfully](#)

[Get home ready for holiday stress](#)

[Santa Glenn's gift ideas for the home](#)

[Tips for safe holiday decorating](#)

[Pilgrims' Thanksgiving feast took planning](#)

[High-tech gas fireplace options heat up](#)

[Find out lifespan of household elements](#)

[Fall back is a reminder of maintenance needs](#)

[Home Show offers big ideas for attendees](#)

[Prepare for the worst and hope for the best](#)

[Portable heaters best for small areas](#)

[Insulation do's and don'ts](#)

[Newer furnaces smaller, last longer and can be up to 97 percent efficient](#)

[Plan to 'blitz' your fall projects](#)

[Best new window is one installed properly](#)

[Follow a checklist for seasonal home shutdown](#)

For more articles:
[Browse-by-date Index](#)

Glenn's mailing it in every week!

Enter your email address below to subscribe to Glenn's weekly e-newsletter. It's free!



Handyman Helpers

Plumbing

Plumbing Professors

Plumbing Professors are ready to handle all of your Residential and Commercial Pipe Lining, Plumbing, Sewer and Drain needs. No Extra Charges for Nights, Weekends or Holidays. Call Plumbing Professors now or visit PlumbingProfessors.com
[▶ Website for more info](#)

Plumbing

Universal Plumbing Supply

Why settle for pictures when you can get a world of choice at Universal Plumbing? Choose from Michigan's largest selection of under mounted sinks, a display of 500 faucets and a huge collection of working toilets, vessels, tubs, spas & designer items.
[▶ Website for more info](#)

Insulation

Ace and Sons Insulation

Cellulose blown-in insulation & Applegate's non-expanding R foam. We have a rebate specialist on staff to help you.
[▶ Website for more info](#)

Hardwood Floor Care book

Nothing matches the warmth and style of a real wood floor. You can keep it looking great with Glenn Haege's Complete Hardwood Floor Care Guide. This book covers it all, from caring for new floors to cleaning, maintaining, and solving problems with your existing wood floors. It's free!
[▶ Download the guide here](#)

