



Accents

Nesting box

Here is habitat tip No. 2 in the series celebrating the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program's 30th anniversary. Many species of birds require a cavity in which they build nests, lay eggs and raise their young. Some species, like woodpeckers, can excavate



their own nesting cavities in the trunks of decaying trees. Others take advantage of abandoned woodpecker holes or natural cavities created by broken branches.

Some require the tall meadow and prairie vegetation to weave and hide their nests.

Installing nesting boxes for birds is an easy way to help create habitat in your yard. Here are some suggestions from the naturalists at the NWF.

Install your birdhouse before the nesting season begins (mid- to late winter). Late February is best for most areas.

Boxes built of untreated wood are best. Your box shouldn't have a perch. Perches are unnecessary and allow predators access to eggs and nestlings.

Hang your box from a pole with a predator guard. Hanging boxes in trees allows predators easier access and can harm the tree.

The box should have a drainage hole in the bottom, ventilation holes toward the top (but not in the roof), and a hinged side to allow easy access for cleaning and monitoring.

Don't use insecticides in the yard. Birds rely on insects to feed their young. And the chemicals are harmful to the birds themselves. Keep your cats indoors. Domestic cats kill millions of birds every year.

You can secure the inside walls of the box, which will assist baby birds in reaching the exit hole when they are ready to leave the nest.

Try to identify invasive exotic birds like European starlings and English sparrows - which out-compete and kill native birds - and remove their nests from your nesting box if you discover them.

Plans for building a nesting box can be found in the Backyard Habitat Planning Guide, available from the NWF for \$14.95 by calling (585) 461-3092.

Check out your local Home Depot store for the NWF chickadee nesting box.

More information on creating habitats and how to have them officially certified by the NWF is available at www.nwf.org/backyard-wildlifehabitat.



THE HEARTH, PATIO AND BARBECUE ASSOCIATION

Homeowners know fireside moments make for a cozy cocoon, so they are opting for more than one fireplace in the home.

Flames glowing brightly

Fireplaces are modern-day fundamental

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

These days, builders and architects rarely ask clients whether they want a fireplace.

Instead, they ask how many. They know fireplaces are as fundamental as the kitchen sink in today's home, and that warmth, comfort and natural ease capture the way homeowners want to feel in their living spaces. Fireplaces not only make for cozy cooing but also bring a sense of the outdoors inside the home.

"We're seeing more than one and even two fireplaces," said David S. Compo, co-owner of James D. Compo Inc., a Farmington Hills home builder.

WHEREABOUTS?

The next question asked by builders: Where ought the fireplaces go?

"People love having a fireplace in the master bedroom," Compo said of the most popular location for a second hearth.

Close behind are the library den and finished basement.



Bringing the outdoors indoors is popular with today's homeowners, and the fireplace hearth and its accessories do so with rustic charm and architectural texture.

"What's popular on the lower level is the peninsula fireplace," said Compo. "It's open on three sides and acts as a sort of separation or room divider between different spaces."

Two-way fireplaces serving adjoining rooms, often between kitchen and living area or living room and dining room, are practically commonplace today, said Compo, whose company recently pioneered a master suite version that brings the fireplace within three feet of a whirlpool or bathtub.

Homeowners like two-way fireplaces because "it's one unit doing

two things," for the cost of constructing and maintaining one chimney. Facings on either side of the fireplace can, of course, differ radically to fit decor needs.

EASE OF USE

Technology has fueled the fervor over fireplaces, too.

The look of gas models has so improved that most homeowners prefer them over wood-burning fireplaces said Steve Brown, co-owner of American Fireplace & Barbecue

Accent the flame

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

Fireplaces are as much about design as function, so let them warm your body and your senses.

As a decor element, fireplaces are architectural. When selecting a mantle or facing, consider the overall style of your room.

Remember, the look of a fireplace can be changed completely with new facing.

More often than not, a room's fireplace becomes its focal point, so don't overlook subtle accents, such as candlesticks, art and floral arrangements.

Tool sets, firewood carriers, fire screens and other functional accessories help incorporate the fireplace into a room's design scheme. And, in the case of gas and electric fireplaces, such accessories add realism.

Tips for finding the right fireplace accessories from the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association include:

PLEASE SEE FIREPLACE, C2

PLEASE SEE ACCENT, C2

MARKET PLACE

Submissions

Do you have a special item you'd like to showcase in Marketplace on the front of At Home? We'd like to feature it!

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Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

English accents

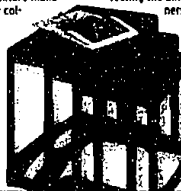
Hekman®, a leading furniture manufacturer, offers two new collections.

Pieces from Hekman's Cardigan Bay Collection are featured in the dining room shown here. Inspired by the country getaways of 18th and 19th century British lords and ladies, the collection showcases silhouettes that are unassuming, yet ample

In detail, from the hand-rubbed golden waxed finish to the brass kick plates protecting the dining table base and corners of the tabletop.

The living room shown here features the entertainment center, cocktail table and occasional tables from Hekman's new Chartwell Collection, designed by John Black and with roots in the English Arts and Crafts movement. The pieces are crafted

of refined alder with exotic roque cherry woods in a hand-rubbed finish. Many of the Chartwell designs are based on specific English walnut and oak examples that were commissioned for some of the finest homes of the Arts and Crafts period. Hekman retailers in the area include Standhardt Design in Birmingham; Pastore Interiors in Bloomfield Hills; Classic Interiors in Livonia; Designer's Choice in Plymouth; DMJ Interiors, Interiors By Design, Mary Lujan and Associates, and Stoney Lane Interiors in Rochester; Gorman's in Southfield; Troy, Hoyt and Dearborn; and Harper Furniture in Royal Oak.



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