



ASSOCIATION OF
WOMEN HOME OWNERS

TRANSFORMING A BASIC HOUSE INTO YOUR LIFESTYLE HOME

www.HomeTips4Women.com





The Home Ownership Experience

Most people treat each home owner project as a separate transaction. When you buy a home, you aren't focusing on the garage you might add at a future date, or who you'll refinance with to cover those remodeling costs down the road. When you understand the home owner lifecycle, you'll see that many of the home professionals you work with once can provide support for future activities in your home owner journey. You'll discover that it pays to build long-term relationships with these professionals similar to the relationships you have with your doctor, accountant, teachers, etc.

Americans are very mobile, moving every 5 to 7 years although the trend is fewer moves, averaging 7 to 10 years. This means you might complete the home ownership lifecycle several times in one or several communities. We've organized the library at the Association of Women Home Owners (www.HomeTips4Women.com) to help you find ideas and information related to where you are in the home ownership cycle. We also encourage you to share your stories as new home owners, busy professionals and parents to encourage others to find solutions to their unique situations.

In the meantime, read on to discover how to find the team that will pave the way to an outstanding home owner experience!



The Homeowner Workbook Series

This series of workbooks will help you identify the resources needed for each phase of home ownership. By gathering the information in one place, you now have a resource you can use over and over to build positive homeowner experiences.

- Who's Who On Your Real Estate Team
- Roadmap to Building or Remodeling Your Home
- Timely Home Maintenance with Your Pro Team
- **... Transforming a House into Your Lifestyle Home**
- Tips to Save Time & Enjoy Your Home More
- Professional Resources for All Your Home Projects (Combines all 5 eBooks)

Transforming a House into Your Lifestyle Home ~ www.HomeTips4Women.com

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Pros to Decorate, Organize and Enhance Your Home

When you buy your home, the bank requires an appraisal and insurance. While few home owners will try to replace a roof, windows or siding themselves, many homeowners assume they're good at decorating or organizing but are we really? I auditioned (painted 1 wall) 4 different blue colors to find the right one for my living room. Everyone loved the blue but questioned my choice of orange elsewhere. I finally had my decorator pick a new color and it was perfect the first time!

Getting help with projects can save you time and money as my painting project illustrates. You'll likely get better results working with a professional who can visualize the results and contrast with similar projects. Do-it-yourselfers tend to focus on a single feature and don't take into account the relationship with everything else in the room.

It's important to **find home professionals who are great listeners**, who will take get to know you, your lifestyle and goals so you get exactly what you want. When you connect with someone, you want to maintain that relationship for future projects. After working with my decorator for several years, I love being able to leave messages explaining what I want and never having to shop again.

Balance function with beauty to create a home that supports your lifestyle.

Here are home professionals who can save you time and money, and at the end of this document are checklists to print off and save the contact information for pros you've used.

- **Interior Designers** – Designers learn your lifestyle and find the best use of space, which may involve moving walls and windows instead of a costly addition.
- **Interior Decorators** – Decorators help home owners select colors, furniture, lighting and more to create the perfect living spaces to support their lifestyle.
- **Re-Designers** – Decorators go shopping in your home, and move furniture and wall hangings around to create a new feeling ... on a budget.
- **Kitchen / Bath Designers** – These designers stay on top of new cabinets, countertops, appliances and more. They know what works for beauty, function and family lifestyles.
- **Painters** – Painters work with home owners to find the right colors and finishes for your walls, from textured paint to faux finishes, murals and more.
- **Wallpaper Hangers** – Paper hangers are experts on patterns, papers, and manufacturers and they install the wallpaper too.



- **Lighting** – Lighting designers help create a room's ambiance with direct and indirect lighting and can help you find the right fixtures for the mood you want to create.
- **Flooring** – Flooring professionals help you pick the right materials for your home, from wood to tile, carpet, vinyl and more (i.e. bamboo and cork are popular now).
- **Custom Tile Work** – Tile is a great material to dress up your kitchen (backsplash and/or countertops), bathrooms, fireplace, tabletops and ... of course floors.
- **Window Treatments** – Whether looking for privacy, energy savings or a traditional decorating touch, you'll find many hard (wood) and soft (fabric) choices to pick from.
- **Fireplaces and Wood Stoves** – Don't have a fireplace or don't like yours? A specialty stove store can help you find the right solution for the space you want to heat.
- **Custom Closets** – When your closet is overflowing, a custom closet can double your space by helping organize everything more efficiently.
- **Security Systems** – If you're worried about security, there are many home security systems available that will allow you to relax at home.
- **Home Theaters** – With all the new electronics coming on the market, you'll want help designing the right system for your home and family.
- **Home Automation** – There's now technology to automate (or provide remote control) turning on lights, opening windows, lowering shades and more.
- **Professional Organizer** – When you can't find things easily, or there's clutter everywhere, it's time to get help from a professional organizer.
- **Re-Upholstery** – When you love an old sofa or grandpa's chair, you'll be surprised when you save money having it rebuilt and upholstered versus buying something new.
- **Slipcovers, Pillows and More** – With young children, a slipcover that can be washed easily or pillows to match your new window treatments might finish off the room.
- **Holiday Decorating** - Holidays are wonderful but often hectic with all the preparations, so consider getting help hanging Christmas lights and more.
- **Picture Framing** – Frame your artwork and treasured photos. Some framers will come to your home and help you select frames and matting right where they will hang.
- **Photographers** – Family photos are wonderful for decorating; consider having some professional family portraits taken to decorate a stairway.
- **Landscaper** – To add trees, shrubs, patios and more, consider the help of a landscaper. Landscape architects can provide the design, allowing you to implement in stages.



Answers to All of Your Home Ownership Questions ...

Women make seventy to eighty percent of the decisions involving their households, and twenty-one percent of first-time home buyers are single women. The goal of the Association of Women Homeowners is to provide you with the knowledge, tools and community support to comfortably manage any aspect of home ownership. We want to help you identify when it's time to call for help ... and when you call, we'll help you learn the concepts and terminology so you're comfortable working with any professional.

We'll help you build your strategy for buying a home and maintaining it to protect your investment. Our home professionals will share tips for decorating, organizing and saving time so you can enjoy your home.

At www.HomeTips4Women.com you'll find great articles and a directory of home professionals to help you with any aspect of the home ownership. You might prefer our radio show, [Home Tips with Tina](#), where you can meet different home professionals and ask questions from the comfort of your home.

We're also inviting home owners to share their stories, so you can learn what has worked for other home owners. Watch your email inbox for **our newsletter, Tips 4 You and Your Home**. We'll share information and ideas to help you learn more about your home and how you can create the home of your dreams. If there's anything you want to know, please let us know so we can provide the information that best supports you in achieving the home of your dreams.

Tina Gleisner, Founder
Association of Women Home Owners

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P.S. The association is for all homeowners looking to improve their lives. We encourage feedback as we build our community to support you. Content comes from home professionals who want to build successful relationships with you. Please invite others who might find our information and community helpful as word-of-mouth sharing, is the best way to build a vibrant community. Thanks!

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Your Home Decorating Team

The challenge with decorating is keeping track of paint colors, window treatments and what is needed where. It helps to carry paint chips and fabric swatches with you when shopping, so make 2 copies and attach your colors so you always have them handy.

Your Home Professionals	Contact Information
Interior Decorator	Phone: Email: Website:
Flooring Store	Phone: Email: Website:
Window Treatments	Phone: Email: Website:
Slipcovers & Upholstery	Phone: Email: Website:
Carpenter/Handyman	Phone: Email: Website:
Professional Organizer	Phone: Email: Website:
Landscape	Phone: Email: Website:
Security System	Phone: Email: Website:
Professional Organizer	Phone: Email: Website:
	Phone: Email: Website:
	Phone: Email: Website:
Paint Store/Painter	Phone: Email: Website:
Paint Manufacturer (best to use one)	Website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceiling paint color/finish • Trim paint color/finish



Rooms in Your House	Walls	Floors	Windows	Other
Exterior siding paint/stain				
Exterior door paint/stain				
Deck stain (paint not recommended)				
Entryway, stairs & hallways				
Living room				
Dining room				
Family room				
Home office				



Rooms in Your House	Walls	Floors	Windows	Other
Kitchen				
Powder room				
Laundry/mud room				
Master bedroom				
Master bathroom				
Shared bathroom				
Bedroom #2				
Bedroom #3				
Bedroom #4				



Your Organizing Checklist

Can you find things easily? This checklist helps take inventory of where things are today, and where you might prefer to store them. Maybe your paperwork can be consolidated in a rolling file cabinet or the children's things can be organized in the entryway or mud room?

Getting Papers Organized	Today	Tomorrow
Mail & school paperwork (ideally, slots for each person)		
Bills to pay		
Library books, movies, purchases, etc. to return		
Paperwork to file		
Family files		
Family calendar (ideally, where kids can see)		

Organizing Bathrooms, Entryways & More	Today	Tomorrow
First aid kits (one on each floor recommended)		
Fire extinguishers (kitchen & garage recommended)		
Prescription medications		
Non-prescription medications		
Family lost & found		
Adult hats, scarves & gloves		
Children's hats, scarves, gloves & boots		
Miscellaneous, i.e. umbrellas, grocery bags, etc.		
Cell phones & chargers		
Cameras, camera bag, etc.		

Organizing Kids Stuff	Today	Tomorrow
School, arts & crafts supplies		
Children's backpacks		
Sports equipment		
Other children's things		