

# WINTER HOME

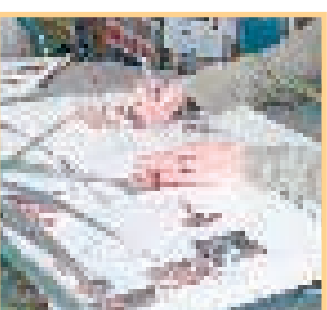
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Record-Eagle

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## Marvelous master baths

By **STACIE CARLSON**  
Special to the Record-Eagle

Whether expanding existing master bathrooms or building from the ground up, consumers can consult experts for help in creating a bath that meets their needs. "There are a lot of exciting new trends we're seeing in the bath area right now," said Mary Lappan, kitchen and bath designer at Home Link in Traverse City. According to Lappan, people want comfort and that includes the pampering that, until now, has only been associated with professional spas. "We see a lot of whirlpool and shower combinations enclosed with glass. People are tending more toward a clear look," said Lappan. "People are interested in easy-to-clean areas, so we encourage marble, tile and Therma-foil cabinets. The Ther-

ma-foil cabinets are molded to fit a frame, come in a variety of colors, and hold up to humidity," added Lappan. Another trend is toward marble with a granite look and texture for durability. It's elegant, but doesn't cost as much as granite. For those looking to remodel an existing bathroom, Lappan suggested choosing the dimensions of bath accessories desired prior to remodeling. That way, overcrowding is minimized. For the do-it-yourself types, stores like Home Depot in Traverse City and Petoskey are an option for bath accessories. "Traverse City is very diversified, with many people building a second home or remodeling an existing area," said Richard Och, kitchen and bath designer at Traverse City's Home Depot. Och noted that bath areas are unique to each customer and



Master baths are becoming more customized, affordable and efficient. Proper space is a main consideration in customized baths. The cultured marble whirlpool bath and accessories are easy to clean and a separate tub and shower frees up the bathroom.

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## Creative kitchens

By **STACIE CARLSON**  
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As the command center in many homes, kitchens are playing an increasingly important role in family life. Today, people are interested in open-style kitchens where everyone in the family can meet. "We accommodate that desire for open styling by using an island stove and snack bar combination," said Gayle Struble, showroom manager at Standard Kitchens in Traverse City. "We're seeing everything from island stoves with grills built in to traditional Shaker-style cabinetry." Kitchen areas that open into dining areas are also increasingly popular, according to Dan Pohlman, owner Pohlman's Interior Remodeling in Grawn. "We're seeing more and more

people move toward open spaces in the kitchen," said Pohlman. For floors, materials range from hardwood and knotty pine to ceramic tile. "They're easier to maintain than carpet and warmer and more durable than linoleum," said Pohlman. In addition, custom laminates are a frequent choice. "Hickory is very popular, but we carry many types of cabinets to meet a broad range of tastes and styles," said Struble. "Laminates are popular on sinks with some ceramic tile, as well," said Randy M. Kyes, a designer at Creative Kitchens in Traverse City. High-fired porcelain sinks from Italy or the stainless steel variety are currently popular. In a trend toward user-friendly features, suppliers like Creative Kitchens carry fun new amenities like warming drawers, wine cabinets and dish-

washers that look like drawers. "Roll-out drawers for low cabinets and specialty drawers with built-in spice racks or knife holders are very popular," said Kyes. Other touches like pull-out shelving on base cabinets, cabinets that extend all the way to the ceiling for increased space and detailed crown moldings for a decorative effect on the tops of cabinetry are other current kitchen trends. Kyes suggested that consumers have a basic look in mind before redesigning. "Lifestyles play a significant role. We need to know whether people entertain guests in the

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Theme designs in kitchens are popular, such as farmhouse style, with details like decorative metal built into the cabinet framework.



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**Brown Lumber's 2001 Winter Clinic Series:**

**Closet and Storage Systems** Thursday, Jan. 18, 6:30pm  
Need extra space? Let our team of experts show you how, to turn your closets, garage, basement or attic into efficiently organized storage space

**Hanging & Finishing Drywall** Thursday, Jan. 25th, 6:30pm  
Learn how to hang and finish drywall like the pros, with TexMaster, a new line of finishing and texturing tools that will give you a flawless finish every time.

**Interior Painting & Faux Finishes** Thursday, Feb. 1, 6:30pm  
Learn to paint like a pro! No matter what your project, we'll show you everything you need to know for a professional looking finish. Plus, a revolutionary new line of products that will help you achieve faux effects in a fraction of the time. Faux finishing has never been easier!

**Laying Ceramic Tile** Thursday, Feb. 8, 6:30pm  
We will provide step-by-step instruction on installing ceramic tile, as well as guidelines on the differences and durability of tile.

**Installing Wood Floors** Thursday, March 1, 6:30pm  
This basic "how-to" clinic will provide a brief overview of the various types of wood flooring, as well as layout and step-by-step installation.

Join us at the  
**HOME BUILDERS EXPO**  
at East Junior High School Saturday, Feb. 24, 9:30am  
for ABC's of Home Construction  
From selecting a contractor to bringing your project in on budget, this 3-hour seminar will take you through the planning process for building or remodeling your home.

ALL CLINICS ARE FREE, BUT SPACE IS LIMITED  
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