



Celebrating 22 Years In Business!

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What's New with RND

On October 13, RND was delighted to be rewarded for our efforts at the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association's 2012 Housing Design Awards Gala, bringing home six awards. We were proud winners in the following categories:

- Custom Urban Infill
- Renovations/Additions \$60,000-\$99,999 (staircase seen on right)
- Green Custom Home of the Year
- Green Renovation of the Year
- Renovator of the Year

- Ottawa Citizen Peoples' Choice Award

We were also finalists in four other categories.

The full article is available at the following link: <http://www.househunting.ca/homes/Housing+Design+Awards+Sweet+modern+victories/7387533/story.html>

Thank you everyone for your continued support.



RND QUARTERLY

Simple and Cost-Effective Energy Saving Tips

As the temperature drops each autumn, energy consumption rises. Saving energy conserves valuable resources and saves money. The following are some tips to help you reduce your energy consumption:

- Seal cracks around doors, windows and electrical sockets with weather stripping and/or caulking;
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators to reduce hot water consumption;
- Always adjust the water level on your washing machine to match the size of the load, and use the cold water setting;
- Use the dryer's automatic cycle to prevent over-drying;
- Open draperies when it is sunny to increase solar gain and close them at night/when the sun goes down;
- Clean baseboard heaters and vents to maximize performance;
- Keep the fireplace damper closed unless the fireplace is in use;
- Use blankets or put on a sweater rather than turn up the heat;
- If your windows are not airtight you can reduce air leakage by adding a layer of plastic—plastic window sealing kits are sold at most

hardware stores;

- Use Energy Star® qualified compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs—they use up to 75% less electricity than regular bulbs;
- Install a programmable thermostat to help keep your home at a regulated temperature—Hydro Ottawa will even give you one for free provided you have central air in your home (check out “Peak Saver” on the Hydro Ottawa website);
- Avoid doing laundry or running the dishwasher at “peak times”. The cost per kilowatt is cut almost in half on weekends and statutory holidays, and on weekdays after 7 p.m. (http://www.hydroottawa.com/timeofuse/index.cfm?lang=e&template_id=357);
- Set your dishwasher to “air dry” rather than using the heat feature;
- Don't overfill your fridge—it decreases air flow and causes the fridge to run more frequently;
- Reduce phantom power (electricity used by appliances even when they're turned off or in standby mode) by unplugging unused electronics. You can also use a power bar for multiple devices and switch it to off when the items are not being used.

Seasonal Tips for Your Home

In order to keep all components of your home running smoothly, and to avoid costly repairs later, the following are some fall maintenance tips you should consider as you start to prepare your home for winter:

- Check exterior finishes for cracks/signs of rotting;
- Examine your roof, gutters and downspouts for debris/blockages;
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned if necessary;
- Prepare your fireplace for its peak season—check operation of damper;
- Check the interior of your foundation for cracks, leaks, mould and mildew;
- Remove grilles on forced air systems and vacuum inside the ducts;
- Check your furnace filter and replace if necessary;
- Check HRV filter and check/clean outdoor intake;
- Drain exterior water lines (irrigation systems) and remove garden hoses from hose bibs;
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors;
- Check operation of sump pumps;
- Check garage door tracks and lubricate bearings;
- Check guardrails and handrails for sturdiness.

Please feel free to share this newsletter, and send us your feedback!

A leader in energy-efficient and environmentally friendly homes

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