

# HOME IMPROVEMENT 101



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All photos courtesy of Zephyr Thomas Home Improvement Co.

The Village showroom provides homeowners with a unique opportunity to see and feel various home improvement products and options ranging from building materials to flooring to landscaping.

It's that time of year again when all those home improvement projects become more obvious and you say that this is the year things will get done. One of the most common problems with these projects is just where to start.

They say knowledge is power; but unfortunately for most homeowners, home improvements seem to be a plethora of questions rather than answers.

My roof shingles are turning up on the ends; does this mean I need new shingles? Do I need to replace the plywood under the shingles or can I just shingle over top of the old ones? My concrete patio is cracked and needs to be replaced, and I always wanted a deck in the same spot; can I just go over the concrete pad with a deck? My cedar shingles are so much work to stain every couple of years; is there anything out there that will give me the look of cedar shingles without the maintenance?

These are just a few questions that thousands of homeowners ask themselves everyday. With over 55 years of experience in the home improvement industry, we've heard our share of them. With the idea of providing some basic information on some of the more common outside issues, we thought it might be helpful to address them by topic.

## Roofing

*Does the pitch of my roof effect the life-time of my shingles?* Yes. The steeper



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Zephyr Thomas Home Improvement Company began as Zephyr Aluminum in 1953, a commercial improvement company. Over time more homeowners were becoming interested in improving the quality and beauty of their home. As a result, Zephyr Thomas was created in 1993 to serve as a residential home improvement company. Our name is well known over Lancaster County and surrounding areas as a reputable and very professional business with over 20 experienced professionals.

We are proud to say that we serve our satisfied customers time and time again with new projects on their homes. In the last year we had 56 percent repeat and referral customers. We use only the best and newest products on the market from the top leading manufacturers on the east coast. These products include our Energy Star certified replacement windows and gorgeous Grandview Sunrooms, made by our award winning Seaway Manufacturer. All products are custom made to suit our customers and their homes. As a full service home improvement company, we go step by step with the homeowner, taking care of the hassles such as permits. Zephyr Thomas will help guide you from your first vision until the completion of your fantastic project.

the pitch on your roof the longer your shingles will last.

*Can I shingle a flat roof?* Yes, but the lifetime of the roof is drastically reduced. What is recommended for a flat roof is to use a rubber roofing system. Some people choose to shingle over rubber roofs for aesthetic reasons but it does not add to the longevity of the roof.

**Siding**

*Is all siding the same, just in different colors?* No. Siding comes in different thicknesses. The cheaper the siding the thinner it is and the easier it will break. Always ask how thick the siding you are getting will be. Siding ranges from .22 - .44.

*Is all siding insulated?* No. You must ask for the foam insulation and have siding that can hold it. This is an added expense.

**Windows**

*Are all windows alike as long as they are low E and double glass with Argon gas?* No. Windows are like cars, they all have four tires but you see a big difference when you drive a Chevrolet as

opposed to a BMW. Some windows are thermally welded, others have insulated side rails. The higher quality windows have aluminum and steel frames inside the vinyl extrusion. The locking mechanism and the balance system are a



The Village showroom features village homes built in a variety of Lancaster County styles. Each house is equipped with different doors, siding, roofing, etc. to help homeowners choose from a variety of options.



The Village showroom includes a four season sunroom with large glass windows, knee walls, and transoms. Landscaping complements include a Trex decking bridge that leads to a stamped concrete landing and a 5-tier waterfall.

couple more areas to look closely at when choosing windows as well.

*What is Krypton gas filled?* Krypton is a harmless and odorless rare earth gas that is found in minute amounts in the air. When concentrated, krypton gas is heavier than air and therefore reduces convection heat loss from between the panes of glass. This adds to the R-value of a window. (Just in case you are wondering Superman is not harmed by this gas.)

### Sunrooms

*Can I use a sunroom year round?* Yes, with today's technology in materials and heat/AC units (called PTAC units) you can enjoy your all season sunroom year round. Many options are available such as glass knee walls and transoms to make the most of the outdoors while being inside. Make sure you're being

quoted for a sunroom that has thermally broken extrusions. This basically means that there is a buffer between the elements in the middle of your sunroom framing.

### Stamped Concrete

*What is stamped concrete?* This is one of the fastest growing areas of home improvements. Many home owners want a patio or deck without the maintenance. Pavers move over time as the ground freezes and thaws. A stamped concrete pad can have the exact same look as pavers without the maintenance. The color of the stamped concrete is whatever you desire. It is colored with an acid that goes through the concrete, so it's not just a surface color. The PSI (Pounds per Square Inch) of the stamped concrete is 6000 which is twice the norm for standard pads or walkways. This is a product you really

need to see to believe.

### Stick-Built Additions

*What does a stick built addition mean?* This is a simple industry term that means the addition is being built with lumber.

*Can you build an addition without lumber?* Yes, a Sunroom would be an example of a non-stick built room. Sunrooms are usually built with vinyl and aluminum and lots of glass.

### Composite Decking

*Is composite decking really worth the extra cost?* Yes, today's pressure treated lumber has only been dried for as little as 3 months. Back in the 1950's most treated lumber was dried for 2 years before it was used. What that means is that the lumber we use today will twist as it dries. The twisting




causes gaps and cracks and additional maintenance. Typically a homeowner needs to stain and water proof a deck every three years. The composite material on the market today is definitely more expensive up front but it's worth the cost. No staining ever, always maintenance free and with many colors you can achieve the look you want without the hassle.

To help clients with their many decisions on product options, Zephyr Thomas Home Improvement Company has created a *Village* showroom where we not only provide answers to your questions—we can also *show* you many product and application options. Here, you can walk on a quaint cobblestone pathway around hundreds of home exteriors and an all season sunroom complemented by a 5-tier waterfall and flowing stream. Listen to the sounds of birds as you stroll past a cape style home with sun colored siding and blue shutters. As you continue, you see the weathered wood color shingle with stone clay siding and a desert sand trim coil. That may be just the look you are going for.

R&A

“At Zephyr Thomas We Keep Our Promise!”

- Replacement Windows
- Entry & Patio Doors
- Storm Doors & Windows
- Roofing
- Decks
- Sunrooms
- Patio Rooms
- Room Additions
- Porch Enclosures
- Vinyl Siding
- Vinyl Railing
- Gutters
- Soffit & Fascia
- Skylights
- Awnings
- Concrete Work

Zephyr Thomas is a full service home improvement company.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole Zephyr Thomas Team for a job well done. I have to say I have been impressed with the whole experience. You made me



feel confident that I chose the right company for the job. I will be recommending Zephyr Thomas to all my friends and neighbors. Your team does a great job and you have a very satisfied customer.

Jeff Weimer



# Brand New Showroom!

Wander through our village of imagination complete with a 5 tier waterfall. Something like Lancaster County's never seen!

Come Visit Our Brand New State of the Art Showroom!  
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