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INSIDE

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LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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AROUND THE HOUSE

Protect and preserve

WOOD • Taking its cues from the world around it, Benjamin Moore's new line of exterior stain products features hues inspired by nature even while the products work to preserve and protect wood's natural beauty.

"While many people may like a 'weathered' look to wood, esthetics aside, all wood deteriorates from exposure to the elements without some type of coating to protect the surface," says Carl Minchew, director of product development for Benjamin Moore North America. "Water and ultraviolet rays are the two major culprits. Our stain system is designed to provide the desired look while protecting the wood."

This includes finish products in a variety of colours and opacities (from clear to solid colour), along with preparation products that boost the stains' staying power for all wood types: new, worn, mildew- or mould-vulnerable, redwood and cedar.

Local stores are already receiving the new products — for more information, plus store locations, visit benjaminmoore.ca.

Keep trash where it belongs

ORGANIZING • There's nothing worse than leaving your trash can out overnight for morning pickup and then discovering that something — from the wind to wildlife — got to it before the garbage truck did.

The new Rubbermaid Animal Stopper Refuse Can aims to reduce the hassle factor, with a unique latching lid that's easy for people to open and close, but tough for critters to pry off. The can itself is made from high-density polyethylene plastic to discourage chewing or further tampering from inventive animals.

The 121-litre can is available for \$24.99 at Canadian Tire locations.

Inspect for new home defects

HOME BUYING • Although most of us are convinced that home inspections for resale properties are a good idea, Dan Steward, president of the Pillar To Post home inspection service, says they can be equally helpful for new homes.

According to Steward, these are the most common defects that home inspectors turn up in new homes across North America:

- Incorrect framing
- Poor grading in the basement
- Inadequate roof flashing
- Poor workmanship
- Improperly connected air conditioner pipes

There's no reason why you can't hire an independent home inspector to check your new home at various stages — just make sure they have experience with new home construction.

— Calgary Herald

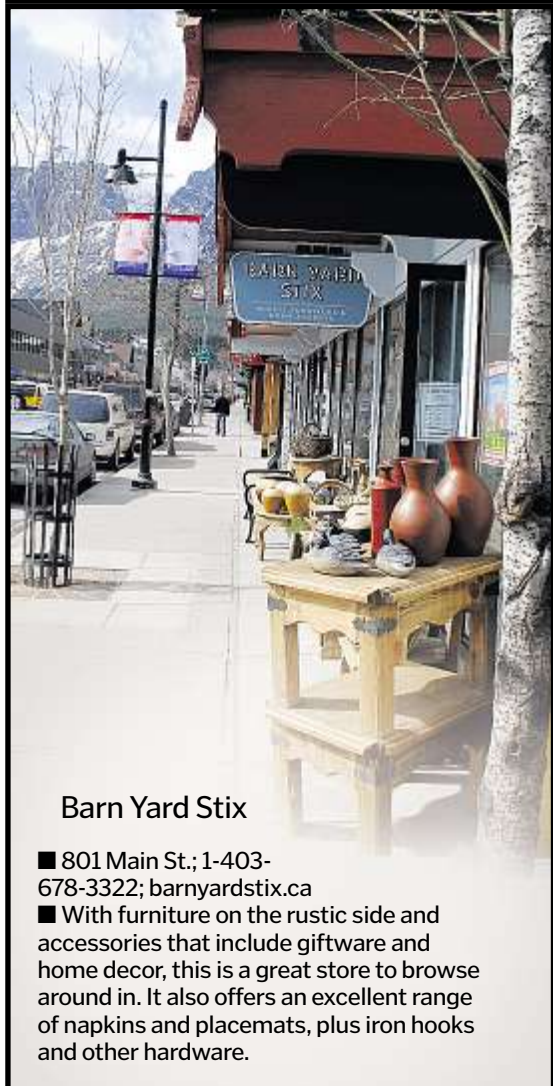
Mut Hut Pet Emporium

- 1001 6th Ave., 1-403-609-3388; muthut.com
- A wonderfully friendly place for dog essentials (and not-so-essentials) such as beds, leashes and accessories, the Mut Hut also offers home decor pieces that run to the rustic pine style of furniture and lighting. But we dare you to leave without treats for the pooch at home.



The Tin Box

- 837 8th St., 1-403-678-9666
- A store packed full of accessories, many of which are handmade by local and Canadian artists. Sofa cushions, plenty of pottery, cheeky greeting cards and fridge magnets, picture frames and more make this an excellent place for gift buying, for your own home and others.



Barn Yard Stix

- 801 Main St., 1-403-678-3322; barnyardstix.ca
- With furniture on the rustic side and accessories that include giftware and home decor, this is a great store to browse around in. It also offers an excellent range of napkins and placemats, plus iron hooks and other hardware.

design walk

Step out with us as we explore the decor-rich neighbourhoods of Calgary (and slightly farther afield), where it's as easy to find unique local talent as it is internationally renowned designers. This week, our series travels 100 km west to Canmore, but you can explore more at any time, online at calgaryherald.com. Go to the Life at Home section, find the Design Walks icon, and click away.

ECLECTIC DECOR IN CANMORE

YVONNE JEFFERY
CALGARY HERALD

We think of Canmore as our mountain playground, but a stroll along Main Street (also known as 8th Street) proves that in the past few years it's become much more — as residential developments have grown around the town, so too have the design and decor stores.

Plan to spend at least half a day exploring the shops, which gives you plenty of time to enjoy the spa and dining scene in town — they're both worth a weekend getaway all on their own.

Favourite finds

- Three Sisters fir lamps engraved with the mountain profile, from Mut Hut Pet Emporium. \$179 each.
- Reclaimed barn wood dining table, from Stonewaters Home Elements. \$1,750.
- "Stitch aqua" pattern turquoise and brown mugs, from The Tin Box. \$3.25 each.
- Teak wood glass-fronted cabinet with two doors and one drawer, from Buhran, \$2,600.

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Arte-sur

- 717 9th St., 1-403-609-4155; arte-sur.ca
- The store's name means "art from the South" in Spanish — as you might imagine, it specializes in handmade items from South America (especially Bolivia and Argentina), primarily in materials such as wood, leather, textiles and silver. You'll find contemporary and rustic styles in one-of-a-kind pieces.



Buhran Gallery

- 802 Main St., 1-403-398-9794 or 1-403-678-3766; buhrangallery.com
- This Calgary gallery has also opened in Canmore, offering fine carpets, furniture and historic architecture. It's all collected on the owner's travels through Asia, and the attention to detail shows, with pieces such as wood pillars, carved wardrobes and, of course, hand-knotted carpets.



Stonewaters Home Elements

- 638 Main St., 1-403-609-4477; stonewaters.com
- An eclectic mix of furnishings and accessories, many of which are antiques (such as the old toy pedal cars) or created from reclaimed material such as barnwood (made into tables) and even door handles (made into wine bottle stoppers).



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West Springs, \$419,900

1026 Wentworth Rise, SW - 1444 + 580 SF town home in desirable Wentworth! 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Features 8" baseboards, knock-down ceilings, gleaming hardwood & large windows, stainless steel appliances & park views. Basement is beautifully developed with large flex space.

Springbank Hill, \$549,000

3 Springbank Mount, SW - 2077 SF 3 bedroom family home situated on a large corner lot! Professionally landscaped yard with mature trees, waterfall & pond feature & fire-pit. Large great room with built-in entertainment centre & fireplace. Close to schools, parks & down town!

Discovery Ridge, \$575,000

6 Discovery Ridge Gardens, SW - 2052 SF 3 bedroom family home situated on a large pie-lot in a quiet cul-de-sac in desirable Discovery Ridge! Central A/C for warm summer months. Vaulted master suite w/ 4 pc ensuite, large great room w/ f/p & loads of maple cabinetry in kitchen.

Springbank Hill, \$595,000

135 Tremblant Way, SW - 1953 SF 3 bedroom home in sought after Summit of Montreux. Fabulous finishes include: 2.5" veined exotic Brazilian granite counters, limestone mosaic backsplash, maple hardwood floors, limestone fireplace & jet tub in master ensuite!

Cougar Ridge, \$625,000

81 Cougar Ridge View, SW - 2138 + 1022 SF 2-storey with fully developed basement! This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home fronts a ravine and features hardwood floors, 2-storey ceiling in great room, sprawling master suite w/ 5 pc jet tub ensuite. Close to parks, schools & DT!

Aspen Woods, \$630,000

9 Aspen Stone View, SW - Quiet cul-de-sac, steps from park, like new, 2353 SF 3 bedroom home with large bonus room, kitchen with granite counters, deep-toned hardwood, double sided fireplace shared between Great room & den, south backyard.

Valley Springs, \$695,000

30 Valley Crest Rise, NW - 2249 + 1100 SF 4 bedroom 2 storey on treed ravine with developed walk-out! Cherry hardwood, granite counters, 9' ceilings, stainless steel appliances & rich maple cabinetry. Master boasts raised sitting area, walk-in closet & 5 pc jet-tub ensuite.

West Springs, \$749,000

1141 Wentworth View, SW - Prime estate location, ideal family home. 2,388 SF, 4 bedroom home backs onto a greenspace & is steps from the pond. Features maple kitchen w/ granite counters, gleaming hardwood, yard with water feature, stone patio & dog run, quiet location.

Cougar Ridge - \$795,000

107 Cougar Plateau Circle, SW - 2615 SF custom built home in the prestigious Promontory of Cougar Ridge. 2-sided stone f/p visually divides large dining room & great room, complete with built-in entertainment centre. Granite counters, SS appliances & slate backsplash in kitchen.

Altadore, \$895,000

2015 - 40th Avenue & 4218 - 18th Street, SW - 2725 & 2639 SF of living space with fully finished basements! Built by Saddle River Custom Homes, "The Dorchester" & "The Chelsea" boast hardwood floors, granite counters, SS appliances, 3-sided f/p in masters & much more!

Patterson, \$995,000

75 Patterson Drive, SW - 3642 + 1614 SF, 2-storey with 5 bedrooms - this home is HUGE! Fully developed basement, hardwood, granite, luxurious master hosts 5 pc ensuite with ultra-tub & private veranda. 12' wet bar in basement, south rear yard w/ built-in 5 burner BBQ!

Patterson, \$1,150,000

92 Patterson Drive, SW - Over 4200 SF of luxurious living space in this custom home! Boasting incredible ravine views, all 4 bedrooms w/ private ensuites, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, slate & hardwood floors, outdoor fireplace & master w/ great views & jet tub!

Altadore, \$1,150,000

4727 - 21 Street, SW - Exceptional contemporary style 2463 SF in-fill on a large lot, high-end finishes, granite counters, gleaming hardwood, limestone tiles, very chic urban style, 3 bedrooms, master w/ huge walk-in closet & private balcony, sunny west backyard!

Elbow Park, \$1,575,000

601 Hillcrest Ave, SW - LAND VALUE ONLY - Huge 18,483 SF lot in one of Calgary's most prestigious neighbourhoods! Home is gutted & ready for renovation - or build new! Incredible lot in Elbow Park seconds to DT and parks & just across the street from the Elbow River!

Springbank Hill, \$1,650,000

10 Spring Valley Place, SW - 3573 SF professionally designed executive home on 1/4 acre lot in Spring Valley Estates. Premium finishes include: Brazilian teak hardwood, extensive built-in's, vein cut Bianco Antico granite, custom cabinets built on-site, imported Italian marble & more!

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