

Summertime

HONEY-DO'S

around the Home and Garden

Maintenance key to functioning farms

Farmers invest hundreds of thousands of dollars on agricultural equipment, such as tractors, tillers, hoppers, and dozers. Adhering to maintenance schedules can prevent breakdowns and decrease the need for potentially costly emergency repairs.

The family automobile is not the only piece of equipment that requires routine upkeep to ensure it is operating properly.

Life on a farm can come to a screeching halt if farm equipment is not properly maintained. Farmers invest hundreds of thousands of dollars on agricultural equipment, such as tractors, tillers, hoppers, and dozers. Adhering to maintenance schedules can prevent breakdowns and decrease the need for potentially costly emergency repairs.

Routine maintenance checks

Routinely inspect hoses, fittings, and seals to ensure they are in good working condition. Be sure fluids, such as coolant and oil, are at the proper levels. Check and replace filters as needed. Tires need to be properly inflated, and inspect the battery for corrosion or other signs that it may need to be replaced. Check belts

Keep it clean

Cleaning the surface of equipment can go a long way toward keeping it operating smoothly. Use a pressure washer to remove caked-on mud and

other debris. Titan iron suppliers recommend quickly washing equipment after usage so that substances do not have the chance to harden.

Learn the equipment

Over time, it is possible to employ your senses of sight, sound and even smell to determine if equipment is working properly. Familiarize yourself with the owner's manual so you can troubleshoot minor problems. Any unusual sounds, odors or responses from the gear should be noted.



for cracks. Tour the exterior of the equipment looking at signals and lights to ensure they are in proper working order. Hardware should be tightened and any missing pieces replaced.

Heavy farm equipment needs motor oil, hydraulic oil and filters changed more frequently than automobiles. Such equipment also may need more frequent lubrication of chains and cables. Always check and inspect equipment prior to jobs requiring heavy and

extended usage.

Expect some welding

Have a knowledgeable welder on call to make repairs as needed, or develop your skills to a point where you feel

comfortable making your own spot repairs. The experts say cleaning the surface area and removing any paint, oil or corrosion from the metal area that needs repairing can make for smooth, durable welds. Multi-process welding

generators and accessories can ensure the right welds for repairs in the field or in the shop.

Maintenance on farm equipment helps keep operations running along and protects expensive investments.

Need help? Call a pro.



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Family-owned company aims to fix your property, ease tension of having a stranger in your home

Since 2014, Butler Contracting has been serving Bastrop County and the surrounding areas. The general contractor offers quality work at affordable prices for area residents. All the work they do is done with honesty and integrity. Butler Contracting, formerly Butler Brothers Odd Jobs, is locally owned and operated, with a team that has more than 30 combined years of experience in the construction industry.

Butler Contracting uses a variety of products that provide longevity and increase durability in the work they do. They have an extensive list of innovative products they use to provide high-quality repairs to



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customers so they won't have to worry about the project again for a long time.

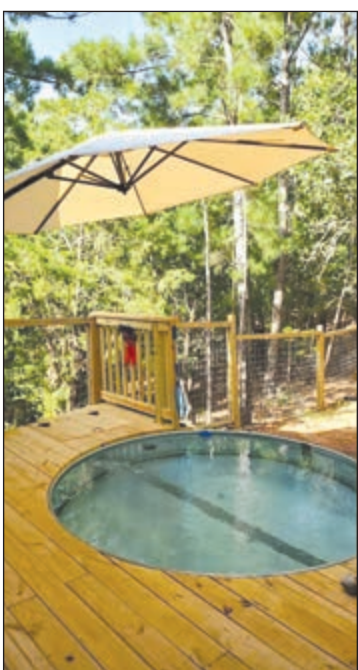
Alan Butler started Butler Contracting after doing construction projects as a side job. He quickly realized that Bastrop County

was in need of a general contractor who cared about their customers and wanted to do the job right, the first time.

Butler Contracting received the Best of Manor 2019, Best of Bastrop County in 2018 and 2019.

Butler Contracting is a member of the Manor, Elgin, Bastrop, and Smithville Chambers of Commerce, a member of the American Fence Association, and the Bastrop County Board of Realtors. Butler Contracting is an approved installer of Nova Tuff Epoxy coating and a Powerhouse Professional, as designated by RGS Roofing.

Every project that Butler Contracting works on is the chance to make a customer's dream come true. Whether it's screening in a patio or building a privacy fence with a window for the pups, Butler Contracting is here to serve all your residential and commercial general contracting needs.



How to recognize water damage in a home

Homes are potentially susceptible to a host of problems. While unforeseen problems can prove costly, homeowners who keep attentive eyes on their homes can oftentimes discover small problems before they escalate.

Water damage is a potentially costly problem that can afflict any home. Old homes tend to be most susceptible to water damage, and that damage can manifest itself in various ways. The following are some telltale signs of water damage that should give prospective home buyers pause and compel current homeowners to seek professional assistance as soon as possible.

Stains

Many prospective home buyers have been disappointed by the sight of water stains during an open house or home inspection. Water stains tend to be on ceilings and/or walls. Stains on ceilings tend to be round, while wall stains are straight lines down the wall that may or may not have forced paint to peel. Water stains are not necessarily indicative of a major problem, but homeowners should have the stains examined by a professional while potential buyers should direct their home inspector's attention to the stains.

Deteriorating wood

Wood around windows or doors that is deteriorating may indicate water problems. The wood might be deteriorating because water is infiltrating the wood during storms. Baseboards and molding that is dilapidated or beginning to deteriorate may also indicate water damage.

Buckled drywall or wood

Drywall or wood that is buckled or beginning to buckle is another potential indicator of water damage. Drywall buckles when it gets wet, and that is often a sign that there is a leak behind the drywall. Severely buckled drywall will feel as if it has ridges. Wood also buckles when it is

exposed to excess moisture, and this can usually be felt when walking on the wood barefoot or in socks.

Odor

Sometimes water damage is best detected by the smell test. Homeowners who notice the smell of mold or mildew in rooms that previously never emanated such odors might have homes that are in the early stages of water problems. The water damage might be behind the walls, where mold is beginning to form thanks to water damage. Older homes tend to be musty, but call in a professional if you notice that mustiness if more pungent than usual.

Water damage is a potentially costly problem, especially if it goes unnoticed for months



Plumbing problems may ultimately result in costly water damage.

or even years. Homeowners and prospective home buyers should be on the lookout for signs

of water damage before problems escalate and require expensive repairs. FH168302

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Improve comfort when dining out

Warm weather entices people to enjoy long hours outside basking in the sun or relaxing on balmy evenings. Many of the activities people once reserved for indoors when temperatures were chilly, including dining, are moved outside as the weather warms.

Even though outdoor dining can be quite enjoyable, certain factors need to be considered to ensure that each experience is as pleasurable as possible. This means focusing on comfort whenever meals are taken out-of-doors.

Address insects

Insects are equal opportunity invaders.

Once they smell sweet or savory food items, they quickly descend for an easy bite. This means extra steps are necessary to dissuade insects from coming by. Invest in citronella candles, which can be placed around the patio to repel flying bugs. Clean up crumbs and spills promptly. Bees and wasps can be lured away with sweet traps placed around the perimeter of the property.

Offer shade

Too much sun can make outdoor meals less enjoyable. A patio umbrella, pergola or canopy can cut down on glare and make the dining area

more comfortable. Check to see that the shade source can be adjusted to guard against the sun as it moves across the sky.

Dress up seating

Just because furniture is made for outside doesn't mean it has to be uncomfortable. Many companies now produce very durable and attractive outdoor furniture. Weather-resistant fabrics mean rain or sunlight will not age items too quickly.

Reusable place settings

If you frequently dine outdoors, you may want to dine in style. Instead of disposable paper or plastic place settings, invest in colorful, durable, reusable plastic dishes, glasses and flatware, which will not break if dropped and can hold up to a dishwasher when it is time to clean up.

Create the right ambiance

Invest in outdoor lighting, candles and hidden speakers to pipe in music and create ambiance. Install privacy screens and foliage to establish a nice nook for outdoor dining.

Outdoor dining areas can be improved with some easy modifications to existing spaces. SL206012

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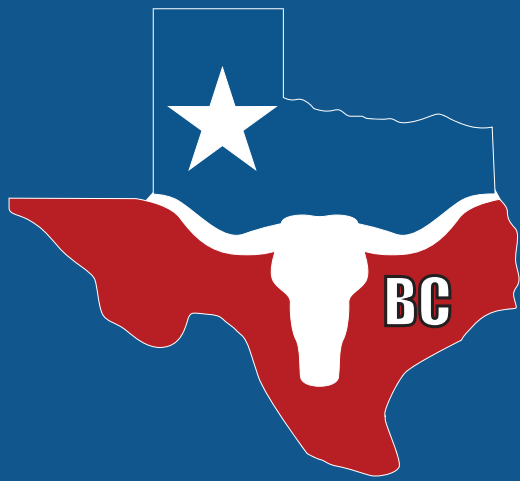
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