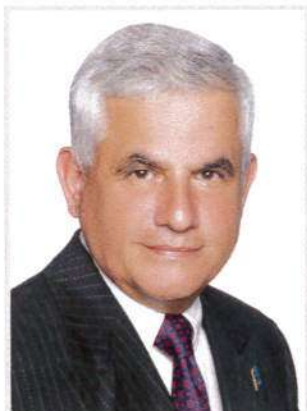


PREFERRED CLIENT UPDATE

Working Hard to Keep You Informed

No. 4 2018



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Making a Move

There's no doubt about it. Deciding to move is one of the toughest decisions homeowners make. Unless you're being forced to move due to, say, a job relocation, the thought of selling can be fraught with fear, excitement, and the sense of being overwhelmed!

In fact, these feelings can cause some homeowners to stay put, even if moving is a smart idea!

Fortunately, you have an advantage. Me.

Anytime you're entertaining the thought of making a move, you can call or email me. You're a valued client, so I'm available when you have questions, need advice, or simply want to talk it through.

If you do decide to move, I can make the process simple and easy for you.

Of course, looking for a new home may be the farthest thing from your mind. But, if you have been mulling over the idea, contact me. I can help.

All the best!

Michael



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Michael Mealia's
UPDATE

My job is to help you with
all your real estate needs –
*before, during and
after the sale.*

Ready to Help

Providing valuable information and helpful services to valued clients like you is important to me. So, if there's anything else I can do to help you with your real estate investment—such as offering additional advice, information or recommendations, please give me a call.

If you want market statistics for your area, please call.

Bacteria is a Growing Concern



Spring cleaning often focuses on reducing clutter, but it can also be an opportunity to reduce potentially harmful bacteria within the home. Start with areas that are likely to have sources of growth, such as kitchens and bathrooms. Thorough cleaning in those areas should include more than the usual suspects. For example, microwave ovens and toothbrush holders can be effective breeding grounds for bacteria. In fact, any place where moisture can linger (such as sinks, sponges and dish cloths) will provide a robust environment for a myriad of microbial colonies. Other common haunts are well-known: handles, doorknobs, keypads and hand-held devices. Grooming products like hairbrushes, pedicure tools and makeup applicators can be a hotbed for fungi. If at all possible, confine these items to individual use, and keep them clean.

Everything Depends on Your Foundation

Many house-dwellers might be surprised that the main purpose of their home's eavestroughs and downpipes is to protect the building's foundation. If water poured straight to the ground from the roof, it would pool around the house perimeter, eventually compromising the stability of the entire structure. So your eavestroughs and downpipes are designed to move that water away from the foundation wall.

Whether your home has a basement or stands on stilts, whether it's built to withstand hurricanes or frost-heaving, it needs to be maintained to ensure it is protected from all sorts of weather and climate fluctuations that threaten



its integrity. As a homeowner, you are responsible for providing ongoing protection that lasts beyond the initial building code applied when it was first constructed.

How to Repair a Large Drywall Hole

Repairing a large hole in your wall is surprisingly easy when you follow a few simple steps:

1. Use a utility knife or coping saw to square the edges of the drywall hole.
2. Cut a patch from a new piece of drywall, making sure it's slightly smaller than the squared hole – but don't try to insert it in the hole without a solid backer to stop it from falling in behind your wall.
3. To form a solid backer, cut a piece of scrap wood or another piece of drywall that's wider than the square hole, and wrap one or two lengths of wire around it. Insert it in the hole and lodge it against the back of your damaged wall by pulling the wire snug. This backer creates a new "bottom" for the hole.
4. Secure the wire on your side of the wall so the backer remains in place, then insert your patch in the squared hole. Apply drywall compound around the edges of the patch, smoothing it flush to the undamaged wall.
5. Allow the compound to dry, then snip the wire before sanding and painting.



Rebates and Discounts: Investigate Before You Renovate

When planning home improvement projects, it's wise to investigate your eligibility for rebates, discounts and other incentives that might help you reduce your overall costs. Among the most common programs available to homeowners are those promoted by various levels of government in support of conserving energy and the environment. While installing a modern energy-efficient lighting or HVAC system will definitely save you money in the long run, it requires a large initial investment. So, it makes sense to determine whether there are government-sponsored programs that will reward you when you're ready to make that initial investment. As well, some manufacturers, retailers and contractors might promote their products and services at special prices in support of such incentives, and



might even help you with rebate applications. Of course, you will need to do some homework by checking with your municipal, regional and federal offices, but it's better to know before you start your renovation than to find out afterwards that you missed out.