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www.restorethenorthshore.com

Apply for Your Tax Credit on Energy Efficient Home Improvements Completed Before December 31, 2007!

The Internal Revenue Service in cooperation with Energy Star® is offering tax credits to homeowners who improve their home with high-efficiency materials and appliances. This is not a deduction, but a credit off of whatever tax you owe. To qualify, home improvements must have been made between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007.

Items that qualify include: adding insulation, replacement windows and storm doors. The maximum amount of homeowner credit for all improvements combined is \$500 during the period the tax credit is offered (1/1/06-12/31/07).

For all items, save your receipt, the ENERGY STAR label from the product and the Manufacturer's Certification Statement.

Exterior Windows & Skylights: All ENERGY STAR labeled windows and skylights qualify for tax credit. Credit is applied for product cost only, not installation. *Credit: 10 percent of cost, up to \$200.*

Storm Windows: Must meet International Energy Conservation Code (see Manufacturer's Certification Statement) and windows over which it is installed must meet the IECC as well. Again, credit is for product cost only. *Credit: 10 percent of cost, up to \$200.*

Exterior Doors: ENERGY STAR doors will almost always qualify. Credit is for product cost

only. *Credit: 10 percent of cost, up to \$500.*

Storm Doors: Eligibility will be confirmed by manufacturer and documented in the Manufacturer Certification Statement. Credit is for product cost only. *Credit: 10 percent of cost, up to \$500.*

Insulation: For insulation to qualify, its primary purpose must be to insulate (i.e. insulated siding does not qualify). It must be expected to last 5 years or have a two-year warranty. *Credit: 10 percent of cost, up to \$500.*

You can also receive credits for

high-efficiency HVAC systems; water heaters; hybrid gasoline-electric, diesel, battery-electric, alternative fuel and fuel cell vehicles; solar water heating systems; fuel cells and metal roofs. These credits have varying expiration dates.

For more information on all credits available, visit www.energystar.gov and click on "Tax Credits for the Energy Bill" located on the lower left.

As always, consult your tax preparer for specific qualifications and eligibility.

YES WE CAN! We Do That!

D/R Provides an entire scope of projects from an Entire House remodel to hanging pictures. Here are some of the services we provide:

LARGER PROJECTS:

- ◆ Design/Build—You Dream it, We Design It!
- ◆ Basement Remodels
- ◆ Kitchen & Bath Remodels
- ◆ "Green" Building Projects
- ◆ Commercial Build-Outs/Remodels
- ◆ Entire House Remodels
- ◆ Room Additions

SMALLER PROJECTS:

- ◆ Handyman Services for that "Honey Do" List that never gets completed!
- ◆ Installation of floor, wall and ceiling coverings
- ◆ Repair, replacement and installation of light fixtures
- ◆ Construction and Maintenance on decks, patios and porches
- ◆ Gutter Repair and replacement
- ◆ Installation of doors and windows (we are a Pella Certified)

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**THINK ABOUT EMERGENCY
BACKUP POWER
BEFORE IT'S NEEDED!**

With the recent storms and days-long power outages, you may be considering purchasing a backup generator for your home. Now is the time to do it when you have time to consider your needs and have more options than after day two with an entire town having no power when you have to travel to ten stores just to find one in stock.

There are three major kinds of generators: "whole house" and "home standby" generators that are installed directly into your electrical system and "portable" or "temporary" generators.

"Whole house" and "home standby" generators must be installed by a licensed electrician from D/R and can be set up to automatically kick in when power to your home is interrupted through an installed electrical transfer switch.

"Home Standby" units will not power the entire house, but can be set up to power "mission critical" circuits within the home. These are typically enough to help you "weather the storm".

"Whole house" generators will power (surprise) your whole home.

"Portable" generators are usually gasoline started at the time of the outage by someone in the home. You would typically connect important items such as sump pumps, refrigerators, medical equipment, etc. by plugging them in directly to the generator.

Generators are available in power ranges from a small 800-watt unit to huge units that power hospitals. To determine the size generator you need, total up the entire wattages required by every device you want turned on at one time (don't forget any smaller devices such as lights and clocks that you want to use).

Make sure to thoroughly read all owner's manuals, we know you hate to do that 'cause so do we, but there are specific maintenance and operational issues that must be followed in order to keep your generator running *safely* and efficiently. Also check with your local municipality to determine any laws about use or placement of the generators, as they can be noisy as well.

D/R Named to "Top 500" Remodelers

D/R Services Unlimited has been named to the 2007 "Top 500" Remodeling companies in the country by *Qualified Remodeler Magazine*.

This selection reflects a review by the magazine of our length of time in business, our membership and involvement

in trade associations, the number of people in the company who have attained industry certifications, and our total sales volume. Other items considered include awards we have been given, customer satisfaction, referral business and overall reputation for level of professionalism..

KEEP SAFE: Carbon Monoxide Checklist

You can't see, smell or taste it, but carbon monoxide (CO) can kill. Here are some tips to help keep you and your family safe.

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm within 15 feet of any area used for sleeping.
- Make sure fuel burning appliances are installed, maintained and used according to manufacturer's instructions

and local building codes.

- Have your heating system inspected and serviced annually by a qualified service technician.
- Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.
- Never use gas appliances, such as ranges, ovens or dryers to heat your home.
- Never burn charcoal or use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside.

We can install carbon monoxide alarms in accordance with Illinois law.

D/R Services can recommend an HVAC contractor who can test your furnace for safe operation during installation, maintenance checks and service. Let us know if you'd like our help. Call us at 847-998-1687.

**DO YOU HAVE CO
POISONING?**

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide
Poisoning:
Headache ~ Dizziness ~ Nausea

If you have these symptoms and there is a chance they could be caused by carbon monoxide poisoning, leave the area right away and call 911 or go to the emergency room. If you keep breathing the fumes, you may pass out and die.

See a doctor if:

- ~ You are often short of breath and have mild nausea when indoors
- ~ You feel better when you leave a building and worse when you return
- ~ Other people you work/live with have the same symptoms you do.

Source: www.webmd.com.

D/R Services Unlimited is a proud and active member of the Greater Chicagoland Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling



Industry. Ron currently serves as 1st Vice President and Co-Chair of the Education Committee. Our staff also attends several NARIGC education seminars each year.



Ron & Tim's "House Talk" featuring D/R Services president Ron Cowgill, CR, CKBR, and Tim Kerfin can be heard on 9FM — 92.7 North, 92.5 West and 99.9 South and East — Sunday mornings 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Ron and Tim's show brings informative guests and topics to the air that will help you on your own projects around the house. You are invited to call in during the show and ask questions at 773-585-0999. All callers are entered into a drawing for a \$100 gas card at the end of the show.

YES WE CAN! (contd. From p. 1)

fied installer!)

- ◆ Replacement of rotting lumber
- ◆ Roof Repairs
- ◆ Hanging of pictures and other miscellaneous items
- ◆ Replacement of batteries in items such as back-up sump pumps
- ◆ We've even moved couches, flipped a mattress and more!

If your house needs it, we can do it! Call us today, 847-998-1687.

D/R Sends Workers Again to Help Rebuild Gulf Region

Yes, help is *still* needed!

The nation recently recognized the second anniversary of the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. After all this time, help is still needed to rebuild and restore the area to even a shadow of its former self.

D/R was happy to send Carl and Joe to the Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, area in September to lend their skills to homeowners who lost most everything in the storm. They went with members of the Chicagoland and Milwaukee chapters of NARI.

When they visited in both Sep-

tember and February of this year to help, Carl and Joe found that little had appeared to change since the storm blew through.

Garbage lay along the road, families lived in degrading FEMA trailers, electricity was tenuous at best, and many homes remained abandoned.

Carl and Joe were able to use their remodeling skills to help make homes livable again for three families. We're proud to have sent them!

If you are interested in helping, please look for charities who are still involved in the region, or contact the NARI office at 847-298-6212.

Have the Room EVERYONE Will Talk About!

Our clients know that D/R Services Unlimited can give them a finished remodel that their friends will admire, but beyond the overall design of the room, there are smaller things that can be done in tile to have everyone talking about your remodeled room and reflect your personality.

Accent tiles or tile murals add a wonderful focal point over stoves, sinks and along larger walls. They can also be placed on shower walls, countertops, or bar backdrops.

Accent tiles are single tiles with a design on them that can be interspersed with plain colored tiles along a backsplash or wall.

Tile murals are typically a group of tiles that, when put together, form a picture of some sort. Some of these give the effect of actual photographs, some resemble paintings and others are simple patterns. Murals

come in many themes: animals, art nouveau, country, famous artists, flowers/fruits, landscapes, ocean life, southwest, foods, etc.



Tiles come in ceramic, stone, glass, stainless steel or creative metal. The tiles can be used to highlight a favorite pastime or a color from your countertop.

Here are some examples:

- ◆ Set regular backsplash tiles in a diamond pattern and select some glass mosaic tiles set square that compliment your countertop or flooring selection.
- ◆ Enjoy wine? Get some accent tiles for your kitchen backsplash that have grapes or wine glasses & bottles to accent your backsplash.
- ◆ Avid gardener? Throw in a floral tile mural to brighten up a powder room.
- ◆ Remember that trip to Tuscany (or want to go)? Visit everyday with a landscape of the Tuscan countryside on your wall.



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D/R Services Unlimited, Inc. is Here to Meet Your Home Maintenance & Remodeling Needs

- ◆ Remodeling
- ◆ Design/Build
- ◆ Historical renovations
- ◆ Home maintenance and repair
- ◆ Interior design
- ◆ Landscape design & maintenance
- ◆ Emergency generators
- ◆ Custom cabinetry
- ◆ Installation of doors and windows
- ◆ Installation of crown mouldings and trim
- ◆ Custom cabinets and tops
- ◆ Replacement of rotten wood
- ◆ Flooring repairs/replacement of wood, tile and marble
- ◆ Construction and maintenance on fences, decks, patios and porches
- ◆ Roof repair or replacement
- ◆ Repair/replacement of electrical systems and fixtures
- ◆ Repair/replacement of plumbing systems and fixtures
- ◆ Gutter cleaning or replacement
- ◆ Drywall and plaster repairs
- ◆ Painting and decorating
- ◆ All your “honey-do” needs; picture hanging, changing hard-to-reach light bulbs, rotate a mattress...

Call us today at 847-998-1687 to schedule your work or learn more about us at our website www.restorethenorthshore.com.