

The Brillo Pad

Apr/May/June 2008
Second Quarter Issue



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Kitchen/Bath Industry Show & Conference

Last month, several of us from Brillo attended the Kitchen/Bath Industry Show & Conference (K/BIS) 2008 at McCormick Place in Chicago. The annual show is owned by the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) and is the world's largest and most innovative kitchen and bath industry show. Here are some highlights that sparked our interest:

DESIGN IDEA CENTER

There's no such thing as a one-size-fits-all kitchen or bath and the Design Idea Center used a 10,000 square foot space to showcase future designs for every stage of life. Universal themes included eco-friendly design, aging-in-place, indoor/outdoor living, technology, organization and storage.

Sponsored by five of the most popular consumer publications, spaces included "Savvy Young Professional", "Starting Out", "Organizer-in-Chef", "Sophisticated Hosting" and "Future Thinker". Each space was designed by NKBA members.

AMBA TOWEL WARMERS

These high quality, long lasting, 100% stainless steel heated towel rails and warmers are available in different finishes and help maintain a mold and mildew free bathroom. AMBATOWELWARMERS.COM

CRAFT-ART WOOD COUNTER TOPS

This is the largest U.S. manufacturer of custom solid wood countertops using domestic, imported and reclaimed wood species for green projects. CRAFT-ART.COM

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The advertisement for Holiday HK Kitchens is set against a light blue background. At the top is the NARI logo (National Association of the Remodeling Industry) with the word "MEMBER" below it. Below that are the logos for the Metropolitan Builders Association (MBA) and the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Accredited Business. The text "Proud Distributor of:" is centered below the logos. At the bottom is the Holiday HK Kitchens logo, which includes the words "HOLIDAY" and "KITCHENS" flanking a large, stylized "HK" monogram.

Kitchen/Bath Industry Show & Conference

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KOHLER

Since 1873, Kohler has been improving people's lives with exceptional products including kitchen and bath fixtures, faucets and accessories, furniture, cabinetry, engines and generators and tile and stone. KOHLER.COM

STONE CARE INTERNATIONAL INC.

Maintenance products for stone, grout and tile surfaces include cleaners, sealers, polishes, disinfectants, stain removers and restoration products. STONECARE.COM

There were also numerous forums and discussions on the hottest trends forecasted, as well as issues affecting the kitchen and bath industry. Topics included green products, new lighting technology, color and living trends, countertops, cabinetry and tile.

If you'd like more information about any of these products or offerings, please visit the listed websites, give us a call or send us an email.

ELEMENT DESIGNS

The leading manufacturer of custom aluminum frame glass doors in North America. Products are built to your specifications and include doors and self-illuminated panels that are used in kitchens, offices, displays and various commercial applications. ELEMENT-DESIGNS.COM

HOLIDAY KITCHENS

As you may know, we are a distributor of this cabinetry. Established in 1946 in Rice Lake, Wisconsin this manufacturer is one of the largest custom cabinet manufacturers in the Midwest. Recently new is the International Design Collection, a frameless product line that offers design trends while giving more interior space. Some of the functional options include a stainless rolling shutter/rapid pull out table, magic corner, tall wire pull out pantry and more. HOLIDAYKITCHENS.COM



Dwelling Contractor Qualifier

Effective January 1, 2008, the State of Wisconsin added an additional credential to the list of qualifications a contractor must meet prior to applying for a construction permit. We are happy to announce that all three of the owners now hold the Dwelling Contractor Qualifier and must complete 12 hours of Continuing Education Classes prior to renewing their license bi-annually. Below are a few excerpts from the letter we received from the state that may be of interest to you:

“Effective January 1, 2008, if a contractor wants to take out a construction or erosion control permit for a one- or two-family dwelling, two certifications from the Safety and Buildings Division will be needed. One is the Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Certification (which will be renamed Dwelling Contractor Certification). The other is the new Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification.”

“The individual contractor, or a chief executive, a chairman of the board, or an owner of a company, must have the Dwelling Contractor Certification. Also, the contractor or an official of a company must have, or must employ someone who has, the new Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification.”

“In order to obtain the Qualifier certification, someone either needs to attend an approved 12-hour Qualifier initial training course or meet "grandfathering" criteria. Individuals may be grandfathered if they or the company they worked for had the Dwelling Contractor Financial Responsibility Certification on April 11 - 14, 2006.”

“Note that Qualifier certifications are issued to individuals who may change employers or who may become an official of a different company. Also note that each company or individual contractor will need to maintain their Dwelling Contractor Certification, in addition to having a Qualifier certification.”

You can check on the status of credentials issued by the State of Wisconsin by visiting their website at:

<http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/sb/SB-CredentialStatusCheck.html>



BRILLO HOME IMPROVEMENTS INC.
5315 N. LOVERS LANE ROAD
MILWAUKEE WI 53225



**BRILLO HOME
IMPROVEMENTS, INC.**
5315 N. LOVERS LANE RD.
MILWAUKEE, WI 53225

Phone:
(414) 442-2230

Fax:
(414) 442-7478

www.brillohomeimprovements.com

Website Update & Gas Card Winners

Chances are you received a postcard announcing our new website and an invite to take part in an online survey. We're happy to announce that we had a 7% response rate, which is better than what we expected.

Congrats to the \$50 gas card winners: Jeff D., Sandy D., Mark M. and Bill & Kay S.! Thanks for participating!

Brillo Barbeque 2008

Don't forget about Brillo BBQ 2008:

- WHO:** You and your significant other, or a friend or two.
- WHAT:** A barbeque-type picnic with food, drink, games & prizes.
- WHEN:** Saturday, June 14th, 2008 from 11:00am to 3:00pm - stop by or stay all day.
- WHERE:** Brillo Headquarters at 5315 N. Lovers Lane Road in Milwaukee.
- WHY:** To thank our clients for their business (also an excuse to mingle and be merry).