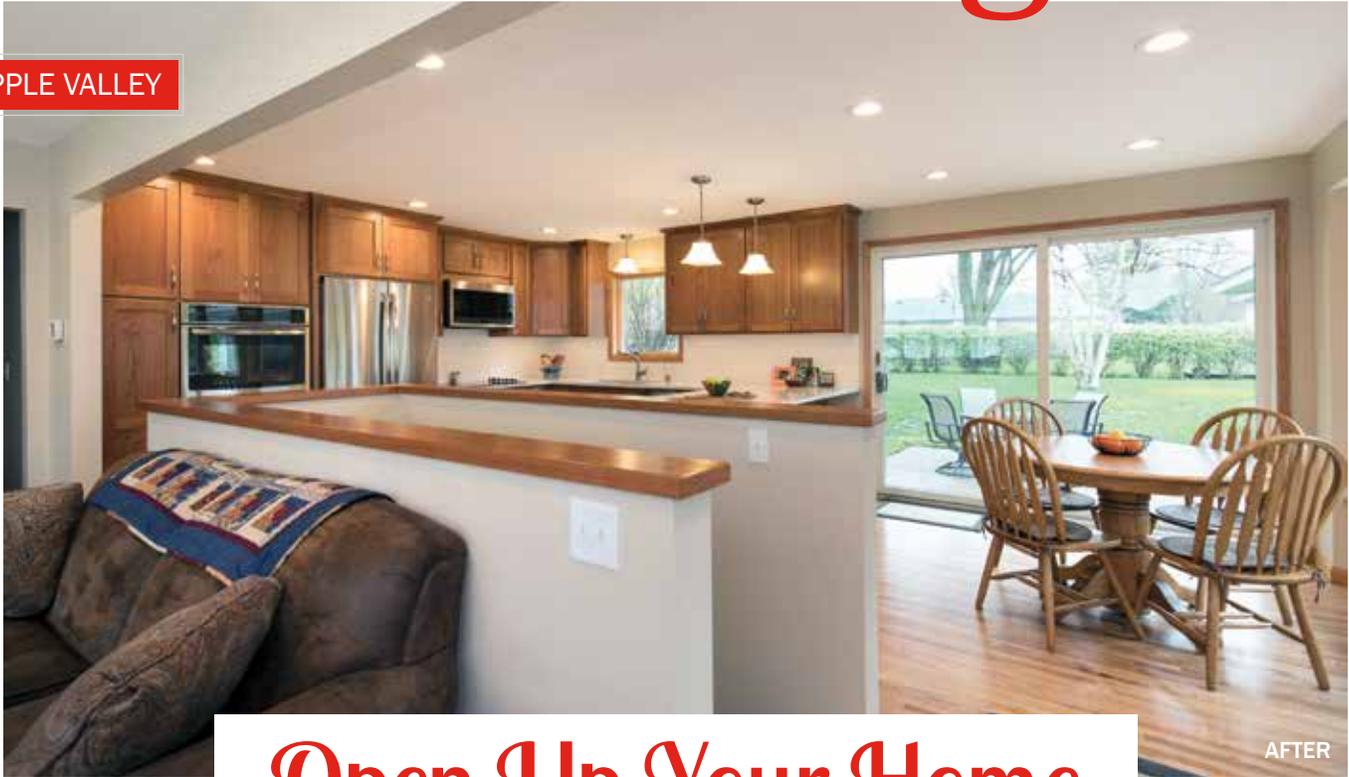


# Renderings

Vol. 4, No. 3

SUMMER 2017

APPLE VALLEY



AFTER

## Open Up Your Home

The walls around the center staircase leading to the basement were removed to create a bright and open floor plan.



Living Room BEFORE

### Before:

Like many homes built in 1963, this rambler in Apple Valley featured rooms that were segmented and closed off from one another. The galley kitchen at the rear of the home was small and separated from the rest of the living space. A staircase leading to the basement divided the kitchen from the living room, making the entire space feel smaller.

The homeowner, who provides childcare from her home, desired an open floor plan and a larger, updated and more efficient kitchen. The owners also wanted to draw in more light and capitalize on backyard views.

Left (before) and above (after): View from the living room, looking toward the backyard

*Continued on next page*

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Learn More:





Composite Decking

### Is deck maintenance necessary?

Most decks are made of wood, ranging from pressure-treated pine and fir to more durable—and pricey—woods such as red cedar, redwoods and tropical hardwoods. Good quality treated wood will last 40 years or so before there is any substantial decay. However, discoloration and splintering can begin after only a few months.

For this reason, most people take on a regular cycle of maintenance. Failure to do so won't cause your deck to rot, but your deck will most certainly become discolored and the surface will become rough and prone to splinters. No matter what the type, wood decks require maintenance.

### Do new decks need to be sealed?

To ensure that the deck continues to look good with minimal splintering and discoloration, the deck should be sealed as soon as it becomes stabilized within its environment. This usually means waiting a few weeks after the deck is completed before sealing.

### What will happen to a poorly maintained deck?

Many people never treat and seal their decks. Untreated decks don't fall down or rot away quickly. Nothing dramatic happens. They will simply get dirty and the surface will become much rougher much sooner. Splinters are a common problem with wood decks. Another hazard is slick surfaces. Much of the "dirt" we see on a poorly maintained deck is actually living organisms. Just like the algae and moss that grow on rocks next to a stream, the organic material growing on a deck can make the deck very slippery when wet. Cleaning and sealing a deck kills, removes and slows the return of organic build-up. *Source: HomeAdvisor.com*



## Care & Maintenance Of Your Deck

### What type of maintenance is recommended?

Approximately once a year, the deck should be thoroughly examined, cleaned and resealed. Check for loose boards, protruding nails, excessive rust and signs of rot, and make any necessary repairs. Remove dirt, algae, moss and other organic matter. Apply a good quality clear or semi-clear liquid sealant to all exposed surfaces, preferably one that contains ultra-violet sunlight protection to reduce the damaging effects of the sun.

Homeowners can do any of these tasks themselves, but often don't do them as well as a professional. If you do hire a professional, choose an experienced, high-quality firm.

### Alternatives to traditional decking materials

To reduce the amount of maintenance required, you may want to consider composite and vinyl decking, which doesn't splinter or require painting or sealing. It is also less susceptible to swelling and more resistant to insects. More expensive initially than wood products, composite and vinyl decking offers large savings over time due to reduced maintenance costs.

**If you are interested in adding a deck to your home, contact Plekkenpol Builders for a complimentary consultation!**

## In case you missed it...

### Star Tribune Home & Garden: "Creative Kids' Spaces"

Plekkenpol Builders was recently featured in the *Star Tribune* in an article about secret rooms and creative kids' spaces. Our Hopkins clients wanted to include a special area for their nine grandchildren when they remodeled their lower level, so with the help of Plekkenpol Builders, they tucked a fanciful playhouse inside a storage area beneath the basement stairs.

The playhouse features a Dutch door, wood retro kitchen and electricity. The grandchildren decorated the interior with colorful hand prints. Adults need to duck to get through the child-sized door, but "the kids love it and sleep in there," said the homeowner.

Right: The playhouse's cedar shakes and blue painted siding match the exterior of their French Country home



Left: Wood retro kitchen



# Open Up Your Home Cont.



*“The entire project was a good experience. They addressed any concerns we had right away, without asking a second time. They kept us aware of what to expect every step of the way to completion.”*

— Homeowners

Left: View from the kitchen, looking toward the front of the home (after)

## After:

The walls around the center staircase were removed, completely opening up the main level (above). Care was taken to match the new trim and flooring to what was existing, so that the remodeled areas would blend as seamlessly as possible. It’s difficult to determine what is new and what is original to the home, which is exactly what the homeowners desired.

### A larger, more efficient kitchen

To enlarge the kitchen, a small addition was added at the rear of the home. Even more space was achieved by converting an adjacent unused bedroom to kitchen space. An oversized patio door makes the room feel bigger and brighter and allows access to the backyard and patio.

### Custom finishes

The kitchen was not only enlarged but also completely remodeled. New cherry cabinets, quartz countertops, white subway backsplash and new stainless appliances create the updated and modern kitchen the homeowners envisioned. Maximum storage capacity was achieved by removing the soffits and extending the new cabinets to the ceiling. Prep space is abundant, and the peninsula island with seating is ideal for breakfast or snack time.

### Family-friendly open floor plan

The new family-friendly open floor plan allows the homeowner to keep an eye on the kids—wherever they happen to run off to!

*Photos by Brandon Rowell*



Kitchen BEFORE



AFTER



Kitchen AFTER

Remodeling

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## Inside:



- **Open Up Your Home**  
Walls are removed to create a bright and open floor plan
- **Deck Maintenance**  
How to care for and maintain your deck
- **Creative Kids' Space**  
Plekkenpol Builders is featured for a fanciful lower level playhouse
- **Customer Testimonials**



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## Customer Testimonials *Details, Details, Details...*

**Plekkenpol** Remodeling  
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### Kitchen | **South Minneapolis**

"We had a truly excellent experience working with Plekkenpol Builders. Our Project Manager had some great ideas on how to open up our galley kitchen and maximize space. Everything looks very professional and polished. Would definitely recommend this company and hope to use them again for future remodeling projects in our 1920s Minneapolis home!" — *Homeowners*



### Bath | **Minneapolis**

"We wanted to say thank you to the excellent team assigned to our home. They were hard working, efficient, polite, skilled and great with clean-up. They certainly live up to the high standard of quality expected when you see the Plekkenpol name. We will recommend them first to anyone in need of a remodeler!" — *Homeowners*



### Kitchen | **Excelsior**

"Your staff is the best from start to finish. Plekkenpol understands the importance of communication. All of our projects were done on time and on budget. There is only one company that we would call for a remodeling project,

and that is Plekkenpol Builders. Your company knows how to make a house into a home." — *Homeowners*

### Master Bath | **Bloomington**

"We are very pleased with our remodeled bathroom. Our Project Manager and Production Supervisor were great to work with. The project went smoothly, and the whole crew was good—competent, pleasant, impressive all around. Many thanks!" — *Homeowners*



The **Difference** is in the **Details**