

BUILDING & REMODELING

HOW-TO IDEAS ON BASEMENT FINISHING

Sean Castorina of Advantage Handyman has a few ideas to offer on finishing and remodeling basements. And well he should. Advantage Handyman Services has done over \$3.5 million in projects like basement finishing in the past five years. Castorina also has a Masters in Construction Management, a Class A Contractors License and a very-difficult-to-obtain Builders Designation. He also has two decorators on staff.

“We finish countless basements every year,” Sean stated. “And we are glad to offer advice on how to best use the space you have. I do this with all my clients at no cost. And I am happy to come out and offer suggestions.”

Below are some great ideas from Advantage Handyman – the area’s authority in basement

finishing - on how to finish a basement and make the most of what is available.

1. CREATE DIVISION

One of the best ways to divide space, Sean pointed out, is with knee walls, and partial walls, which create areas but don’t block light. They give the basemen an open feeling without looking like just one big space. These partial walls can be ideal to create weight rooms, home offices or homework rooms.

“We try to take advantage of every inch of space,” Sean stated. “Not every wall is flush, for example. Recessed bookshelves can be used in many of those areas. We look at every alcove, nook and cranny and try to maximize space.”

2. MAKE GOOD USE OF LIGHTING AND FANS

One of the most common criticisms of a basement is that they are dark and musty. Recessed lights can be your best friend in a basement remodel, according to the experts at Advantage Handyman. They take up no space and with a dimmer switch, can set the

mood of the room. Another great idea is to use flush mount ceiling fans to circulate the air. These fans also take up little space and are ideal for a fitness area.

3. CREATE STORAGE SPACE

A homeowner never has enough storage space. A basement is a perfect place to create storage areas by using lofts and deep shelves. “In our home we have a storage area set aside for all our holiday decorations – the tree, lights, trimmings, everything,” Sean said. “My family takes s storage seriously.” Sean suggests heavy, deep shelves from the floor to the ceiling to maximize storage space.

4. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR STAIRCASE

One of the best way to open up a basement is to take out a partial section of the wall coming down the stairs so you can look into the basement as you come down the stairs, creating an open feeling in the room and allowing more light. The space beneath the staircase can be a huge asset, as a kid’s fort or playhouse, as recessed bookshelves or a place to store toys with the use of creative shelving. “If you have a start date in mind and a budget, we are the company for you,” Sean stated. For ideas on how to best use the space in your basement, call Advantage Handyman Services, a Class A Contractor and the area’s leader in basement finishing. Call 434-817-7222 or go to www.advantagehandy.com.



MAKING GOOD USE OF SPACE IN A BASEMENT FINISH CAN LEAD TO A GREAT FITNESS ROOM SUCH AS THIS