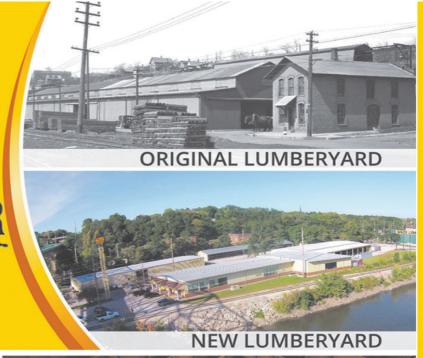


A Publication of The Mendota Reporter • Wednesday, July 28, 2021



The Illinois Valley's Top Building Supplier For Over 6 Generations!



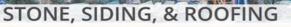


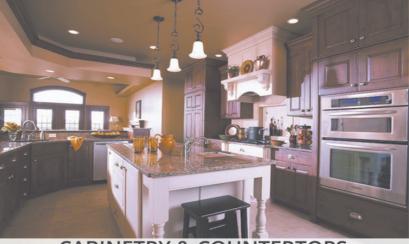
GAS & WOOD FIREPLACES



WINDOWS & FLOORING







CABINETRY & COUNTERTOPS

mazelumber.com Water Street, Peru | 815-223-1742

How To Choose Kitchen & Bath Design
How To Choose A Bank
How To Choose A Mortgage LenderA6 – Eureka Savings Bank
How To Choose A MattressA8 – Meyers Furniture
How To Choose An Insurance Agency
How To Get Started in Fitness
How To Choose An Auto Body ShopA14 -Specialty Body & Paint





How to CHOOSE KITCHEN AND BATH DESIGN

- Your kitchen, bathroom or entire house remodel should be functional, attractive and within your budget.

Any builder or real estate agent will tell you that upgraded, stylish kitchens and bathrooms are the most in-demand areas of a home to remodel for your own comfort and pleasure or to sell your home.

Kitchen and bath remodeling can improve your home's value and increase its charm. This is especially true if your current kitchen and baths are dated and showing their age. And while remodeling can be costly, these are areas where you don't want to cut corners. After all, you use your kitchen and bath every day you are in your home.

If it's time for some updates in your home, here are some things to consider with regard to kitchen and bath remodeling.

Function

Functionality is paramount. What exactly will you be doing in this room? Do you eat in your kitchen, or in a dining room? Some people get dressed in their bathroom, while others put on clothing in their bedrooms.

Make a list of all the activities you perform in the room. Prioritize this list from most important to the least.

Upon finishing this list, figure out the items you need to store in your bathroom or kitchen. Do you really need to have the washer and dryer near your kitchen or bathroom? Can you create a closet in your bathroom?

Next, create a floor plan. Think about your traffic pattern as you complete tasks. When you are tired from a hard day, you will be glad you thought ahead.

Some people use their kitchen to entertain guests. If that is your preference, include it in your floor plan. You might want to add a bar or table for entertaining. Everyone wishes that they had more storage space, so be sure to build it into your design.

Décor

Look for inspiration. Leaf through home design magazines to find appealing designs. Make notes on what you like most about each design scheme.

Also consider watching home design shows or looking on the Internet. You can often find the most up-to-date information from those sources.

If you are redecorating to sell your home, keep in mind what future homeowners may enjoy. In the kitchen, consider using stainless steel appliances. They usually are easy to clean.

Neutral flooring is always a good option. These floor coverings consist of sustainable, low-maintenance material. They are a good choice for any kitchen or bathroom.

Neutral paint may open up opportunities for a variety of decorating options. It could make it easier to change the decor in the future. If you sell your home, it allows potential buyers to visualize their own preferences in that space.

Of course, any room you design must be coordinated with the design of other rooms in your home. If your house has a contemporary, modern or traditional design, you will want the kitchen and bath to blend with that decor.

Experts suggest that you spend most of your money on countertops. It is often a focal point in any room.

Small accent pieces can also help boost your design. Pick unique pieces that display your personality.

Budget

Remodeling can be expensive. Experts recommend you spend up to 20 percent of your home's value on remodeling the kitchen, and less than that on remodeling the bath.

You can save money by adding a coat of fresh paint to your current kitchen cabinets or installing energy efficient appliances. Leave some room in your budget to hire a professional to do electrical and plumbing work, along with other chores you are uncomfortable with doing yourself. It will save you money in the long run.

How to Choose a Kitchen Remodeling Company

Many homeowners delay remodeling because the process can seem so daunting. Don't be put off by the task.

Contacting kitchen remodeling companies in your community to get a rough idea about cost and scope of the project you have in mind is a good place to start. Your local home improvement store might have information for licensed contractors in the area.

Once you have compiled a list of professionals, ask them for quotes. They will likely have to visit your home to look at the room. Estimates should be based on the total work that needs to be done.

If you find someone who hesitates to give you a quote in writing, cross them off your list and look for someone who is more forthcoming.

Sometimes, remodeling requires work from a sub-contractor. It is difficult to know at the beginning whether sub-contractors will be necessary. Chances are, if you receive similar information from several different professionals, you can trust the advice.

Another aspect of any estimate will be time. Ask each contractor about the time it will take to complete the project. All professionals should be able to finish the project in roughly the same amount of time. If there are any contractors that vary greatly from the average time frame, you should ask them why they differ so greatly.

After narrowing down your list, check each individual's or company's references to ensure their reputation. Speak directly to anyone who has hired them for previous work. Inquire about the quality and dependability of the workers.

If anyone is unable to provide you with references or contact information, you might want to reconsider using them.

Once you have decided on a licensed contractor or kitchen remodeling company, ask to view the contract. This document should specify any task involved in the project, including its cost and time for completion.

Before signing, request proof of the individual or company's licensure. Be sure that they have current accident insurance coverage. If they do not, you might be liable for any accidents that occur on your property.

When sub-contractors are used, they should be under the umbrella of the head contracting company. If not, separate written contracts may be necessary. Review each sub-contractor just as you would the head contractor: check references, licensure and insurance coverage.

Choosing the people who will remodel your kitchen is an important decision. Finding someone who will stay within a budget and complete the job in a timely manner will go a long way toward giving you satisfaction with the end result.

How to CHOOSE A BANK

Top Five Things You Should Know About Your Bank...

- 1. Do they have the financial products and services you need?
- 2. Are there hidden fees?
- 3. Do they care about you, not just your money?
- 4. Are they convenient enough for your lifestyle?
- 5. Do they support your community?

There are many factors to consider when choosing a bank. Some consumers think that all banks are the same; others are lured by free checking offers and giveaways. But there's a lot more to think about than what you can get for free. What else should you be looking for in a bank?

What Do You Need?

Banks have most of the basics in common - checking, savings, loans. But it's important to think about what you'll need from your bank now and in the future. Ask your banker what types of different accounts they offer, but also look for other things you might need, such

- A checking account that lets you write all the checks you need
- Availability of accounts and services for your business
- Loans for your business, home or personal use
- Retirement and investment accounts
- Monthly account maintenance fees
- Minimum balance requirements
- Overdraft protection
- Online banking
- Direct deposit

- Get the most bank for your buck!

Considering the amount of time and effort people generally spend on most financial decisions, it is surprising how little they sometimes put in to selecting the right.

A broad array of financial issues can be impacted by the type of banking services used, so it is important to keep a few things in mind when selecting a bank.

Interest Rates and Fees Charged

A bank's competitiveness is often measured by the interest rates it offers. It is not uncommon for the savings account interest rates offered by different banks to vary, but the majority of institutions make adjustments to rates according to changes in the federal funds rate.

On first glance, variations in interest rates might seem inconsequential, but when substantial deposit amounts are involved, the difference can be significant.

It is typical for banks to assess fees and other charges for particular sorts of transactions. As an example, a checking account may permit only a certain number of checks to be written each month before a charge is incurred. Other banks may

require customers to maintain a minimum balance in order to keep their accounts active.

Personal Convenience

Another key element of selecting the right bank is that of convenience. It makes sense to identify banks that feature multiple branches in the areas you travel most, including the areas where you live, work and frequently visit.

Overdraft Safeguards

You might have an accidental overdraft occasionally. Banks have different policies regarding overdrafts.

Some banks offer overdraft coverage in the form of a high-interest line of credit that is accessed only in the event of a bounced check. Other institutions simply charge fees each time an overdraft occurs.

At other banks, overdrafts are afforded no coverage at all. It is important to research the overdraft policies of multiple banks before making a final selection.

Institutional Stability

Many people fail to consider a bank's stability when choosing a financial institution. Before you entrust your money to a bank, you should take a look at its history and financial condition.

Typically, deposited funds are invested by banks under a fractional reserve banking system, and a bank with a clean balance sheet will be the most able to weather any turbulence caused by market corrections.

The majority of banks are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for up to \$250,000 per depositor. This value can vary depending on the type and number of accounts held by a customer.

That is not to say that failures are completely impossible. A solid bank will have limited exposure to toxic assets that put its balance sheet at risk.

Services You Need

Most banks offer a wide range of services. Whether you need to take out a loan or open a checking account, choose a bank that fulfills your needs at the lowest cost, while offering the maximum convenience possible.

Careful and vigilant shoppers can look forward to positive experiences by taking the time to select a trustworthy commercial bank.

How to CHOOSE A MORTGAGE LENDER

– The best mortgage professionals keep the borrower's best interests and financial priorities in mind.

Important Points:

- 1. Mortgage professionals should be extremely knowledgeable about a wide variety of loan products.
- 2. Experienced mortgage lenders take the time to gain a thorough understanding of a purchaser's long-range financial goals.
- 3. Finding a mortgage lender in your area is usually the best.
- 4. A local lender allows for close monitoring of your loan application as they will be more readily accessible to answer your questions.

Finding the home of your dreams can be time-consuming, but once you've found it, most buyers are eager to close the deal as quickly as possible. But you should remain patient as you begin to arrange for financing. The key is to take as much time as necessary to do things properly and select the best mortgage lender for your needs.

Loan professionals have the potential to make buying a home easy. When you work with a lender who is dedicated to providing great service, the process is likely to go smoothly. But if your lender appears to be focused primarily on securing large commissions or pushes loan products that you're not interested in, exercise caution.

Mortgage professionals should be extremely knowledgeable about a wide variety of loan products and should be willing to spend as much time as necessary to explain them. Solid lenders are eager to answer buyers' questions and take pride in guiding them through what can be a confusing process.

The best mortgage professionals keep the borrower's best interests and financial priorities in mind.

Do some advance research on loan options to measure whether you are dealing with an honest mortgage professional. Knowing a bit about loan products before you sit down with a lender can help you determine whether he or she is truly concerned about your needs.

Having at least some knowledge about the financing process will allow

you to make a sound assessment of the mortgage professional's motivation and decide whether he or she is a good fit

PURCHASER'S RIGHTS

Dealing with mounds of forms, declarations, and financial terminology can be dizzying to the inexperienced homebuyer. However intimidating the process may feel, you should exercise care in making sure you understand everything you are signing and the obligations you are assuming.

A signature cannot be erased, and buyers may only have a short time — or no time at all — in which they can back out.

Even if done within the permissible period, a purchaser still will likely forfeit any deposit paid if he does not follow through with the deal, and he may also owe an additional amount based on the amount of the initial mortgage payment. This can be avoided simply by exercising sufficient care when signing all agreements.

If a mortgage lender is rushing through the paperwork and pressuring you to quickly execute the forms, he is not doing his job properly. In such a case, the purchaser's best interests are being neglected, and the likelihood of a misunderstanding grows.

COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR LENDER

Experienced mortgage lenders take the time to gain a thorough under-

standing of a purchaser's long-range financial goals.

A good lender will want to know how long the buyer intends to remain in his or her new home. This type of knowledge helps him suggest the mortgage products that best suit the borrower's needs. It is a red flag if a lender fails to ask this kind of question.

SEEK LOCAL LENDERS

Finding a mortgage lender in your area is usually best. Because interest rates can change on a daily basis, a local lender is better able to remain attuned to rapid changes in the local housing market and will always know how such changes may affect his or her clients.

A local lender also allows for closer monitoring of your loan application as he will be more readily accessible to answer any questions you may have.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PERSONAL REFERRALS

Feel free to ask family members and friends about their experiences with mortgage lenders, and if they are comfortable recommending the professionals they used for their home loans.

Word-of-mouth recommendations offer a great way to identify the very best professionals in your area. Once you receive a few possible names, take the time to verify their professional backgrounds so that you will feel confident in their ability to provide the sort of quality customer service you desire.

DON'T TAKE A gamble on your lender

You wouldn't choose just any old house, so why choose just any old lender. You need an experienced, reputable lender that can offer you a great loan at a great rate. You need us.

We offer a wide range of conventional and non-conventional financing options and will work hard to find the right one for you.

250 Marquette St. LaSalle, IL 61301 Ph. 223-0700 1300 13th Ave. Mendota, IL 61342 Ph. 539-5656

101 N. Columbia Ave. Oglesby, IL 61348 Ph. 883-3354

2959 Peoria St. Peru, IL 61354 Ph. 223-9400



How to CHOOSE THE RIGHT MATTRESS

- A good night's sleep is a necessity, and choosing the right mattress is an investment toward healthful sleep.

Important Points:

- 1. Pick a mattress manufacturer known for quality.
- 2. Proper support with high-coil count will allow your back to stay in comfortable alignment all night.
- 3. Mattresses come in plush, pillow top, ultra plush pillow top, firm and cushion firm, and all can have the same proper support.
- 4. The best foundation is a box spring with one or more steel center beams and cross rails of steel and wood.
- 5. Once you choose a comfort level, you'll want to choose the best mattress in that level that you can afford.

First, some simple steps about mattresses. You spend one-third of your life sleeping. Most people sleep on the same set of bedding for up to 10 years even though a current study from Oklahoma State University showed the comfort life of a mattress is five to eight years. Sleeping on a mattress for 9.5 years seven hours a night is like driving on a set of tires for over 153,300 miles. Do you now believe a mattress can stay comfortable that long?

* * *

When looking for a new mattress, what should you be looking for? A quality new mattress plays a vital role in restorative sleep that results in improved health and quality of life. Ask yourself these questions: What firmness of mattress do I sleep on now? Do I like that feel and would I like the same feel? Do I have any new health problems that would change the feel I may want? Would I want to change the size of the bed I'm sleeping in now? How long do I want the bed to last? Are there two people sharing the bed and how much mattress movement would you tolerate?

After you have asked yourself these questions, now it's time to look at the mattresses. If there are two people sharing the bed you should both try the bed at the same time. Look at how the mattress spring or high-density foam core

supports your weight. Does it support your spine and hip in a straight line? If yes, then look at the foam. This is what we call comfort level. Do you feel pressure that causes pain or causes a feeling that you want to roll instead of staying in one spot? If so, keep trying other mattresses until you feel you could stay in that one spot for most of the night. Now that you have found your mattress, a question everyone asks is should I replace my foundation? The answer is yes. An old foundation will negatively impact the feel and durability of your new mattress and may void your warranty.

Ask your sleep consultant how your new mattress will perform over time and the warranty so you'll have no surprises later. You should get a mattress protector cover for your new mattress to protect against stains that will void the warranty.

Size does make a difference with two people in a bed. Statistically, two adults in a full bed is less space than when you slept in a crib. Consider a larger bed; a full measures 54*75, queen 60*80 and king 75*80.

Buying a new mattress does not need to be complex. Follow the simple rules above and purchase your mattress from a local dealer who will be there to help you get the best night's rest you deserve.

Shopping Tips:

- Pick a quality mattress company that carries a variety of brands.
- Find the support and comfort level that best suits your sleeping habits.
- Always pick the best that you can afford in the level that you really like.
- Choose a reputable local dealer.

Twin 5" Foam Mattress \$99

Max Life Beds

4 styles and firmness in stock

- · copper-infused gel foam
- anti-bacterial, anti-viral, anti-fungal
- helps with inflammation

Luxury Plus-Side Sleeping

15-year warranty

2-Sided Flippable Queen Mattress Starting at \$670

10-year warranty (most models adjustable base friendly)

SEE OUR LINE OF ADJUSTABLE BASES FROM MALOUF®

Adjustable Bed Bases starting at \$600





PRING

RATED #1 BY GOODBED.COM



1901 South State Highway 251 Mendota • 815-539-6263 meyersfurniture.com

Mon & Fri 9-6 • Tue & Wed 9-5 • Thurs Closed Sat 10-5 • Sun Noon-4

How to CHOOSE AN INSURANCE AGENCY

- Find an insurance agency that offers the right combination of service, coverage and affordable price.

Important Points:

- 1. Identify a skilled agent willing to guide you through the process.
- 2. Make sure you pick a company that is highly regarded by consumers.
- 3. Secure the appropriate type and amount of insurance to adequately protect yourself and your financial future.

Your financial future depends upon appropriate insurance coverage. Shopping for the right insurance agent can sometimes be a challenge. You want to find a company that offers the right combination of service, coverage and an affordable price.

The problem may simply be one of not knowing how to identify reputable, experienced agents. It is vital to keep in mind the fact that everyone needs to have the right type of insurance coverage in place. A seasoned agent can help make that happen for his or her clients.

Prior to choosing your insurance coverage, it is necessary to identify a skilled agent willing to guide you through the process. You should always conduct a thorough study into multiple agents in order to find the best one for your needs.

A great way to start is to ask friends, family members and colleagues that you know and trust for referrals. If you receive a recommendation, there is a strong likelihood that you will have the same type of positive experience as the person providing the referral.

Talented agents know that offering great service is the best way to keep receiving personal recommendations and increase business. If you are satisfied with your agent's work, they would surely appreciate your willingness to refer friends and relatives in the future.

Those who have not had the

benefit of a personal recommendation are free to conduct their own research. It may be wise to begin by making inquiries of individual companies and brokers.

Selecting a large insurer offers greater uniformity among agents, as they will have undergone the same types of training and be subject to the same policies. However, they may also lack creativity and innovation in the way they handle their accounts.

Thorough deliberation is critical when shopping for the best agent. Treat the research process as you would if you were purchasing a new car or home.

Make sure that you pick a company that is highly regarded by consumers. You should also verify that any prospective agent possesses all necessary licenses and training.

Once you have narrowed your list of possible agents, it is a good idea to meet with each one. Have a list of questions and concerns ready so that you can gather all of the information you need. Be certain that you feel comfortable with their answers before you take the process any further.

If you feel as if an agent is trying to get you to purchase a policy that does not meet your needs, you should proceed cautiously. Simply inform the agent that you need more information and are not ready to make a decision immediately.

If you are working with the right

kind of agent, they will allow you to take as much time as you need to collect all of the facts and details necessary to make your decision. They will also treat you like as a good teacher would — giving you lots of useful information — rather than as a high-pressure salesperson.

Also make sure that your agent is available and willing to have an ongoing relationship with you. If the relationship ends once the sale is made, you will be at a clear disadvantage. If your dialogue is a continuing one, you will be able to contact your agent if you have any questions or concerns. This could even include seeking help with filing a claim should the need ever arise.

Take caution to choose an agent that is reputable and established. If your agent has been in the business for many years, chances are they will better understand the policies that they sell and be able to take extra care to ensure that you are properly protected.

It is important to secure the appropriate type and amount of insurance to adequately protect yourself and your financial future. Thorough research needs to be done to make certain that you have purchased insurance coverage tailored to your specific circumstances.

You, your family and your finances will reap the benefits of the extra effort. A seasoned, skilled insurance agent is an invaluable resource for safeguarding your future.

When you have a loss... L-R: Tyler Full, Jackie Near, Mike Wasmer, Mary Ann Baughan, Brandon Pezanoski with Auto-Owners Insurance. **FIRST** STATE Auto-Owners Insurance **INSURANCE** 715 Washington St. · Mendota, IL 815-539-5651

How to GET STARTED IN FITNESS

- Going to a gym is a fantastic way to lose weight, stay fit and have fun.

How to begin your fitness journey

- "I need to lose weight before my class reunion."
- "I want to get back to where I was when I played ball."
- "My doctor says I need to get in better shape."
- "...but I don't know where to begin."

Sound Familiar? You know what your end goal is but knowing what path to take to get to that goal is the most daunting part. The truth is that you already do know the starting point, however the uncertainty of achieving your goal may be holding you back from beginning on your journey. Here are some tips from personal trainers and instructors from the Mendota Area YMCA to give you some confidence and point you in the right direction:

Chase negative thoughts away and start small!

"A good mind set, wholehearted commitment and consistency is how you have to begin to exercise," says Colleen Myers, Mendota YMCA Group Exercise Instructor.

Colleen, a Tom Merwin Gold Star recipient, has been the group instructor since the Mendota Area YMCA opened in 2016. She is a certified by the American Sports and Fitness Association in Dance and Hip-hop Aerorics Instruction and Group Exercise. Her classes draw participants in their 20s up to seniors.

"Chase the negative thoughts away and start small. It takes time to build endurance. It does not happen overnight. Stay at it, and before you know it, it becomes part of your daily routine."

Set a specific goal!

Many people do not have a specific goal in mind when they decide to start working out. They often just say they want to get in shape, lose some weight, tone up or get stronger. Mendota YMCA's Personal Trainer Kyle Wood says it is so important to be specific in setting your goals.

"It is great that there is a desire for a change but having a specific goal in mind will help you to choose the right form of exercise and focus your workouts. Weight training may not get you to your target of losing weight the way that cardiovascular can. Setting specific, attainable goals will set you on the right track to losing those the pounds you want to lose or improve in an activity, skill, or sport that you would like to be able to do with ease."

Kyle Wood, one of Mendota YMCA's personal trainers is a graduate of Northern Illinois University and a grad-

uate student at Illinois State University in Kinesiology. He is a graduate of Mendota Illinois where he played baseball and went on to play baseball for Illinois Valley Community College and interned at Johansen Baseball. He also created the Mendota YMCA Youth Strength and Conditioning Class.

"It does not need to be anything fancy, but exercises like jumping jacks, lunges, walking or jogging on a treadmill, or riding a bike are a good. It should not take more than 5-10 minutes."

Don't forget to stretch and warm up!

"A proper stretch and warm-up will prepare your body for your training session, says Wood.

"Most people know that taking the time to stretch is so important to avoid injury and reduce soreness. However, it is equally important to take time to warm up.

Woods continued, "A warm-up should increase your heart rate, get the blood flowing to the muscles, and increase body temperature. It does not need to be anything fancy, but exercises like jumping jacks, lunges, walking or jogging on a treadmill, or riding a bike are a good. It should not take more than 5-10 minutes."

Keep things simple!

The YMCA's new personal trainer Chris Sandoval said that no matter your age, it is important to keep things simple to know how to execute exercises correctly.

"Whether you are a freshman in high school who wants to start going to the weight, or someone who is interested in starting their fitness journey later in life, it is important to know how take to execute exercises the right way.

You do not need to do big lifts or crazy workout programs to get started. That is scary to a lot of people. Start with simple, basic exercises to get started. Learn how to do them properly. Knowing the correct form and doing the basics better will build a strong foundation to move on to more involved exercises."

Sandoval knows what it is like to start over. During his athletic career at Mendota Township High School, he moved from being a soccer player to being a varsity football player.

"It was such a different way of practicing and conditioning. Suddenly I was having to lift much heavier weights. It was a little intimidating at first, but then I loved it!"

Sandoval is a student at IVCC on his quest to gain a degree in exercise science or Kinesiology. He received his personal training certificate from the International Sport Science Academy.

Try Yoga!

A lot of people do not know what Yoga is or how beneficial it can be for new to the fitness journey. It may seem a little too exotic to some. For others, they think they may not have the flexibility. But the truth is that it is much more than just stretching.

YMCA Yoga instructor Emily Mantermach explains, "Studies have shown yoga helps with physical benefits for flexibility and strengthening the body. It also helps mental and emotional aspects as we continue to work through the movement and meditate.

Mantermach is a registered 500-hour yoga teacher with additional training in meditation and restorative yoga. She says that yoga is not as hard as many may think.

"If you can breathe you can do yoga! It is the practice of a healthy lifestyle for better wellbeing. It includes movement through poses, meditation, breathwork and studying the practice as knowledge.

And there is a yoga class for everyone. Wherever you are in this journey is where you are. Whatever your age is your age! At our classes at the Mendota YMCA, all are accepted, and we will work with you to learn the poses and do your best."

Whatever you want your fitness journey to look like, The Mendota Area YMCA and staff are here with the know-how to get you on track and keep you there. Whether you are looking for a personal trainer, a fun, upbeat group exercise class, or a chance to breathe through yoga, The Y has something for everyone, and there will be even more options to come.

Personal Training sessions are \$15.00 for 30 minutes, or \$25.00 for one hour. Group exercise and yoga classes are free from members. Day passes can be bought \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for youth and seniors.

Group Exercise and Yoga classes are held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings and evenings. They are free for members and day passes can be bought \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for youth and seniors. Personal training sessions are \$15.00 for 30 minutes, or \$25.00 for one hour. Appointment for a free consultation with a trainer can be made by phone or in person.

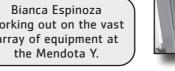


- \$100 joiner fee waived
- Free group exercise classes for members
- Silver Sneakers
- Membership works at Mendota and Peru IV YMCA branches





working out on the vast array of equipment at the Mendota Y.



Mendota YMCA (815) 538-2900 **IV YMCA** (815) 223-7904

www.ivymca.com

Open 7 days a week!

How to CHOOSE AN AUTO BODY SHOP

- It is vital to choose an auto body shop that you can depend on.

Important Points:

- 1. The shop you choose should be able to complete everything from a minor touch-up to full body repair.
- 2. Make sure you get a written estimate, check for certifications and guarantees.
- 3. Ask the shop manager or owner for references before you have them work on your vehicle.

According to the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, your chances of needing the services of an auto body shop or collision-repair expert are often higher than many think.

From dents and scrapes to fender-benders and more intense damage resulting from an accident, repairing your vehicle requires the services of expert professionals from an experienced, reputable auto body shop.

Choosing the right body shop depends on many factors, such as the extent of damage, whether the costs are born by yourself or insurance, the experience of the shop with your make and model of vehicle and the shop's history and reputation, among others.

Paramount to your search is finding an auto body shop that's honest, trustworthy and dependable. That choice will ensure that your vehicle is repaired quickly, affordably and correctly.

The shop you choose should be able to complete all manner of work, from a minor touch-up to a full-body repair.

Your friends, family and colleagues might have recommendations. After all, auto body shops are an unfortunate, but necessary, part of life for most people.

Have a list of companies, research each shop on the Internet and read customer reviews.

Testimonials, negative and positive, should be considered. But keep in mind that no business has a 100 percent satisfaction rate. Someone will always be displeased. Also, more people are likely to leave a negative rather than a positive comment.

A good source for finding an auto body shop is your local newspaper. Local businesses advertise and many times you can find special deals to help save you money.

Once you have created a list of shops, contact them on the phone and ask pertinent questions. How long have they been in business? What are their specialties? How soon can you bring your vehicle in for an inspection?

Ask to set up an appointment for a free inspection. Then further investigate the business. Look around their lobby. Is it clean? Do they have their license and any awards or certificates posted? Do they care enough about their customers to offer reading material, coffee or water?

Consider prices. Are they comparable to other body shops? While you want to find that deal,

remember, cheaper is not always better. Understand that you will often get what you pay for when it comes to auto body work.

Low prices may be tempting, but they typically mean sub-par work, used parts and paint that is incorrectly applied.

Feel free to ask the manager or owner for references before they work on your car.

You can also check their previous work. When you see a car with paint drips, panels that are misaligned or paints that don't match, look elsewhere. You will not save money if you need to have the improper work redone.

The shop should inspect your vehicle for repairs that are not readily visible. Often, there are hidden damages that cannot be detected until repair work begins on the vehicle.

Finding an auto body shop may not be the most pleasant business because it usually means your vehicle has suffered some kind of damage. But finding the right shop will make the experience much more pleasant and you will be happy with the repairs. Especially if you find the right shop that knows how to repair your vehicle so it looks the same as before, or even better.





1503 W. Washington St. • Mendota

815-539-7801

Serving this area since 1983.

Now in our 38th Year!

Offering the most modern & efficient collision repair using ecologically friendly water-based paints.

Also offering restoration services on cars, tractors, pop machines & misc. In recent years, we've been offering economical fabrication exhaust systems - in-house - for any car or truck with lifetime guarantee!

OUR STAFF:

Dennis Bodmer - Owner Jennifer Bauer - Office Manager Joe Arteaga - Tech

Your first and forever bank since 1940.





706 Washington St. | 1403 13th Ave.



