



# What is Custom?



**Shannon Houff**

"Custom;" what does that really mean? Well, we all kind of know what it means, but is it really crystal clear? Do we really grasp the reason it's better? The first thing most people think when they hear "custom" is that it's expensive, and that is such a misconception! It does not always cost more to get what you really want. It just means that you get what you really want.

It always amazes me that people will sit down to buy a new vehicle, and wheel and deal on the options and price. They say we have the tan with the black, or the white with the grey, and you pick one. Once it's all said and done, and you go ahead with the purchase, but in your heart you know you really wanted the one they showed in the brochure, the beautiful blue one with the saddle leather seats. You really did just sign your life away for the next 5 years, spending \$50,000 on a SUV, or \$90,000+ on a truck for something they had in stock...? What... That's Crazy!! When you are investing that much money, why not wait and get what you really want? It would make the purchase sooooo much more satisfying, don't you think??

So, when we talk custom in the home design and furnishings world, I always tell my clients, choosing what you really want and what works in your space is well worth the wait.

If you are working with a skilled professional that can show you all of your colour options and help you put things together, you will be very happy you did. From figuring out how you fill his wish list with a big puffy Michelin man chair in the same room that your sleek, stylish sofa is going to go; we can make different configurations really suit your room. Going custom is the way to make you 100% satisfied in your finished look. It also makes the end result unique to YOU... And isn't that what we all want? Something that is YOURS?

We can help you coordinate and complement that beautiful new flooring that you just put in, or the custom

cabinetry you just chose, by finding just the right stain for your new dining room furniture or a solid wood bedroom set with an upholstered headboard. Custom choices make it all flow together and create balance in your home.

It can also let you sleep better when you know you really want that exact sofa and chair that you sat in at your neighbors at the game last weekend, and all we have to do is pick a different cover. They will never find out!

So 'till next time, it's That Girl Shannon saying: "Knowing what you want can be a challenge, but getting what you want is..... priceless!"



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## Trending kitchen cabinet designs

The kitchen is the heart of every home. Not only does it need to be functional, but as the hub of your family life, it also has to be visually stunning. To this effect, kitchen cabinets

have moved away from the rustic and classical designs of previous years. In an effort to become more modern and sleek, cabinetry has adopted a new seamless style combining

appearance and functionality.

A minimalist approach. Kitchens have become increasingly streamlined over the years. Gone are the days of raised panel doors, excess ornamentation and crown moldings. Instead, you'll find a more European approach emphasizing horizontal lines and an obvious absence of patterns. Full-overlay cabinetry is brought to the ceiling and flat-panel doors are outfitted with basic chrome or stainless steel hardware — anything and everything to create that sleek and unadorned look.

Inspired by your tastes. You'll encounter a varied selection of cabinets when attempting to tailor the design of your kitchen to your style and needs.

Melamine continues to be a popular choice for many kitchens. Installing solid wood cabinets will increase the value of any home, but they are more expensive than other materials such as veneer and thermoplastic. And color choices, while often influenced by natural light, will vary depending on your personal taste and style.

Consulting a renovation specialist is always a good idea when looking to make your kitchen more modern. Their expertise and personalized assistance will help you select and install the right cabinets for your kitchen.



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## How to choose the right fertilizer for your lawn



ten referred to as an NPK ratio, typically appear on the front packaging.

Fertilizer numbers indicate the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium the fertilizer contains — in that order! These are the main nutrients your lawn needs and they perform different functions.

Nitrogen promotes plant growth and makes your grass greener; phosphorus promotes root growth and potassium builds strong cells within the plant tissue.

Selecting your fertilizer  
The fertilizer you add to your lawn should supplement what's lacking in the soil. For instance, if your soil lacks nitrogen, has ample phosphorus and almost enough potassium, you might choose a fertilizer marked 34-0-4.

To find out what nutrients your lawn needs, pick up an inexpensive soil test kit at a garden centre. If you want a more detailed evaluation, get a lawn care professional to perform one.

Every lawn requires its own unique blend of nutrients to thrive. This fact is reflected by the many varieties of fertilizer on the market. If you want healthy grass, it's important that you choose the type of fertilizer best suited to your particular lawn.

Understanding fertilizer labels  
The key information on a unit of fertilizer is contained in a chain of three numbers separated by dashes. These numbers, of-



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## Three tips to prevent water damage this spring

Spring is fast approaching, meaning that the snow and ice accumulated over the winter is about to melt en masse. This has the potential to cause all sorts of damage, from roof leaks to basement flooding and sewer backups. Here are three tips to help you keep such unpleasant situations at bay.

### Test your sump pump

A sump pump in poor condition can lead to a soggy nightmare — especially during the spring-time thaw. You definitely don't want to miss work

or cancel plans because you're too busy draining, cleaning and airing out your drenched basement. Be proactive and call a local plumber to test your drains, clean your sump pump and make any necessary repairs to prevent flooding in your home.

### Inspect your rain gutters

When your gutters are obstructed or damaged, water from melting snow and ice will flow where it can — usually onto the roof or foundation. This is a surefire way for water to infiltrate into your home. Avoid this by calling a pro to make sure

that your gutters are solidly attached and allow for optimal water drainage, far away from your home's foundation.

### Maintain your drain

A French drain that's obstructed by debris or inadequately installed can back up your sewer, leaving water to escape from every opening in your plumbing system. Make sure you never have to face such an ordeal by having your drain regularly inspected and cleaned by a drainage specialist.

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# Jeannot anticipates increased interest in solar

BY KARA KINNA

Moosomin electrician Kyle Jeannot took the training to start installing solar panels last May, and says he feels solar is a growth industry in Southeast Saskatchewan, especially since the carbon tax came into effect.

"It is a whole new market to get into," he says. "It's a good fit for our company, and with the carbon tax coming in, everybody wants to be more energy efficient."

"There has been a lot of interest in solar. We had three systems booked within our first year and we've got another three booked already for 2019. More people are getting interested in it."

Jeannot says he's seen interest from a range of different people who own a range of different kinds of properties.

"We've had interest from everybody from farmers to people in town," he says.

"We've had two who live in Moosomin, two will be done here at the end of April, and then we had one up at Langenburg too, it was on a farm."

He says once the carbon tax came into effect, he had a number of calls that day



asking about solar.

"I've had a lot more interest since the carbon tax came in. A lot of people have

been calling and just quizzing me up on it, asking a few questions on how it's going to save them money. Their power

bills are going up, so they want to cut costs where they can.

"I think it's going to drive it more. And then with SaskPower having the 20 per cent rebate on still, it definitely helps out."

Jeannot says he can see solar making up a larger part of his business some day.

"I think it's a little early but I'm hoping it could make up 25 per cent of my business. Ideally I'd like to have a solar crew and an electrical crew one day, but you never know where it's going to end up at," he says.

As for other people installing solar in rural Southeast Saskatchewan, he said he's heard of some companies coming out of the cities, but there appear to be few people living in the rural areas who do it. He says he's the only person he knows of in the Moosomin area who is installing solar power systems right now.

"We've run into a lot of the guys out of the city coming and putting in solar, but that's about it so far. I am the only one I know of around here doing it," he says.

Here's what our customers are saying:

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## Five fun and affordable ways to revitalize your home

*Does your home need an update? If a full renovation isn't in the cards this spring, here are five fun and inexpensive makeover tips for reinvigorating your home.*

### New accessories

Inexpensive upgrades such as new throw pillows on the couch, a fresh tablecloth in the dining room or a chic frame for a painting or photo will help revitalize your home.

### Rearrange your furniture

Sometimes changing the layout of a room is all you need to do to make it come alive again. Move your bed to the other side of the room or switch the living room furniture around.

### Update your bathroom

Replacing accessories like the soap dish, shower curtain and hand towels can make your bathroom feel brand new.

### Switch up your lighting

A lamp for your bedroom or a new fixture in the dining room will shed new light on a room that's lost its sparkle.

### DIY upgrades

If you want new cabinets in your kitchen, try painting the ones you have for a cost-effective alternative. Consider a DIY approach to other desired upgrades for your home.

These simple and affordable changes can make you fall in love with your home all over again. So which ones will you undertake this spring?

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# HOME & GARDEN 2019

## It's all in the stone

Natural stone integrates perfectly with every type of property, regardless of style. Whether you dream of a modern terrace design or something more rustic that will complement your garden and surrounding landscape, your dreams can become reality with a beautiful, natural stone floor! It all depends on your choice of stone and installation technique.

There are many reasons why natural stone terraces have remained a popular choice among homeowners for so long. First and foremost, stone is a robust material that requires very little maintenance. Forget about repainting or re-staining each year! Next, because every stone is unique, it's very possible to create an original patio design that won't go unnoticed. In fact, landscaping experts, as well as companies specialized in the manufacture of natural stone, can skillfully create real works of art. For a sophisticated design, natural stone carved with a guillotine offers a clean-cut finish, while stone cut by hand is ideal for those more rustic projects. The installation of natural stone is in itself a creative process that requires exceptional attention to detail.

Limestone, silica, slate and granite are all natural materials that enhance the beauty of your yard and increase your home's overall market value. Available in a wide array of colours and textures, natural stone combines elegance and durability — two widely sought-after qualities for many homeowners.



Whether you dream of a modern or rustic design, natural stone patios integrate beautifully with any type of property.

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