

August 23, 2012

I first met Jim Allen when we were living in a rental house in Springfield. We moved to the area in 1994 and not knowing how long we would be here, decided to rent. The rental property developed water problems in the main hall bath – and we were finding water all the way down in the basement. My landlord used Jim to fix the damages. What made the experience memorable for me was the fact that the landlord would not spring for ceramic tile baseboard - -even though there was ceramic on the walls and on the floor. He wanted Jim to put that nasty vinyl black trim around the floor as a “baseboard”.

Well, Jim would not let his work look like that. He chose, and absorbed the cost out of his own pocket, to use ceramic tile trim that matched, so that he could be proud of the finished product. I thought to myself “wow, if I ever need work done on a home of my own, this will be the guy!!”

In 2001 we purchased a house in the same area. The house had been built in 1977 and over the years had some alterations done on it. After living in it for about 8 months we noticed the ceramic tile in the powder room on the main floor had a problem. We thought the grout was going bad. I remembered Jim and called him. He came out to investigate and it turns out that the contractor hired by the previous owner had used the wrong kind of adhesive on the tiles. The grout was crumbling because the tiles were no longer attached to the floor and were moving!! The floor was less than 3 years old!!

So Jim ripped out the entire floor and made sure the subfloor was properly installed. He installed a new powder room floor for us and did a beautiful job. When our master bathroom developed a leak that showed up in the family room, we had Jim back. We went over our options with him and decided to totally gut it. Jim took me to pick out cabinets, worked with me so I could pick out the things I wanted to provide myself like mirror, light fixtures, towel bars and cabinet hardware. Jim’s advice was superb on the wonderful touches that I had not thought of, like our “hotel mirror” that is lighted and swivels out from the wall, and our fan timer, and quiet close toilet. Jim stuck to the budget and got the bathroom done a full week ahead of schedule. Every day the worksite was cleaned. Every piece of work was professional and he showed us what was going on every step of the way. I loved the fact that Jim took me to see other jobs he had finished before we hired him for this big job.

Well, once we had used Jim Allen’s complete services, we knew there was not going to be any other contractor work in our home. We had Jim gut the hall bathroom upstairs – beautiful tile is Jim’s trademark and he is a master at laying tile. Again, great decorative advice, clean work area, finished on time and on budget. I love it that I can trust him with a house key and go to work knowing my house is safe and the work will be completed beautifully. Jim always produces a beautiful product.

In January 2011 we had Jim come in and do a multi-room project for us. He completely gutted our kitchen, and redid everything – plumbing, electric, drywall, floors, everything!! I had been working on the kitchen plan for quite some time and he had a couple of wonderful ideas that really enhanced my design. I have to say I have never met a more conscientious man! He is honest, hardworking, well informed about everything available to him in his industry and a perfectionist at heart. He does it the

way he would want it done in his own home. We work great together. I wanted to pick purchase lights and cabinet hardware myself. I had Jim pick out the exhaust fan and sink, knowing I could totally trust his judgment. That is saying a lot as I am a control freak!!

After discussing a problem my sister had with her built in ovens overheating the cabinets adjacent to them, Jim came up with a plan and installed a vent fan in the soffit above the ovens that vents to the outside. It pulls the air from the interstitial space around the ovens, up through and out, keeping the temperature in the adjacent cupboards nice and cool. The fan is on an auto thermostat so it comes on when the oven heats up and shuts off when the oven cools down. Jim insulated well and the fan is almost completely silent. Anyone who does not know it is there will never notice it running.

At that time we also renovated the mudroom and the laundry room. Again, Jim was on time with the completion of the project AND stayed on budget. He was able to help me attain granite for the mudroom that matched my kitchen at a reduced cost when I decided to change the plan. He worked well with everything I asked for including allowing me to work closely with him to purchase those items I wanted to provide for myself.

I have gone to Jim for advice on everything from my curb appeal project to replacing the entrance doors and the garage doors. He always steers me in the right direction. I honestly would not dream of having anyone else in my home and I surely would not be handing over my keys to just anyone.

I would be most happy to answer any questions anyone might have regarding our experiences with Jim Allen Contracting. I know this recommendation is long and I actually could have written more!! But I think you get the idea. In my personal opinion, you couldn't do better than to hire Jim Allen Contracting.

Jackie B.
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