

## Steamatic location opens in Lyons

By RYAN CARLSON

A Steamatic location turned out to be the conduit to fulfill the American dream for friends James Kreis and Adam Suhler.

After seeing the Steamatic business up for sale in Hutchinson, The duo decided to open a location on the north end of the Rice County Courthouse Square in Lyons. They discovered it after Suhler's father called to get his carpets cleaned. "He told us he wasn't taking on any new business because he was getting ready to retire. So, we looked into the company and found it would be a good fit for what we wanted to accomplish," said Suhler.

The sale was official as of January. After that, the two friends eyed the previous Robertson's Pest Control office as a potential location for a while. However, prior to moving into that location, they used the old Rickabaugh Motors building as a space for a time.

Steamatic is a carpet and hard surface cleaning service. They mainly work on homes that have experienced disasters, with services such as fire restoration and mold remediation. Steamatic as a company has existed for 50 years, this particular Steamatic franchise has existed for about 25 years.

The market for Steamatic services is wide ranging. Every time a pipe in a house breaks or basements flood, there is work to be done. In some cases companies will be scheduled out for up to two weeks for carpet cleaning after these events.

The Steamatic system works primarily by a combination of several things. The primary component of their services is hot steam which disinfects and removes stains. The water is heated to 212 degrees. This hot steam is combined with a variety of cleaning chemicals that are patented by Steamatic.

The Steamatic system does not work with brushes as other cleaning companies. Suhler said this is important because brushes can eventually wear carpet out. "How we clean with steam and vacuums will add longevity to our customers' carpets," said Suhler.

In addition to cleaning, Steamatic offers services to keep carpets from getting new stains. One of those is a Scotchguard treatment. The material prevents spills from seeping into carpet.

Although cleaning carpets is for the most people esthetics, there are other reasons to have a clean carpet. The first is health because unclean carpets can hold allergens such as dust, pollen and animal hair. Some companies also require customers to have clean carpet in order to keep their warranty.

Steamatic employees are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is mainly due to their capacity of disaster mitigation. Also, they will clean many business' carpets after hours, since it takes between two to three hours for carpets to dry. To order Steamatic product, individuals can call the Lyons Steamatic location at 620-663-2538.

## Did you know?

Debris from home improvement projects can often be recycled. According to Waste Management, the largest residential recycler and renewable energy provider in North America, common construction materials such as concrete, porcelain, tile, lumber, metals, masonry, plastic, carpet, and insulation can potentially be recycled. When recycled, debris from construction projects may ultimately be used in various ways to benefit the planet. For example, such debris may be used as inerts that become road base, while clear wood may be transformed into mulch or biomass fuel. Crushed concrete can go on to live a second life as gravel or become dry aggregate for new concrete. Homeowners who want to recycle as much of their home improvement project debris as possible can work with Waste Management and/or their contractors to ensure the materials they no longer need continue to be put to good use.

## Home improvements that increase home value

When granite countertops or shiny, stainless steel appliances beckon homeowners from the display areas of home improvement stores, it's tempting to gear remodeling thoughts toward the items that will add flair and decorative appeal to a home. Even though most improvements add some measure of value, deciding which are the best investments can be difficult.

Return on investment, often referred to as "ROI," varies depending on the project. Frequently, the projects that seem like the best investments don't bring the greatest rate of return, while those that seem like smaller projects bring substantial returns. Real estate professionals routinely weigh in with their expert advice, and homeowners can couple that advice with Remodeling magazine's annual "Cost vs. Value Index" to reap the greatest financial impact from their renovations.

The following were some of the projects that garnered the greatest ROI in 2015.

- Open the door to improvement. Region by region across the United States, installation of a new steel door on the front of a home can have a large impact on the resale value of a property. The ROI ranges from 123 percent at the highest, to 86 percent at the lowest - which is still a considerable investment return for such a simple project. Match the door's style with the style of the house for the best value.

- Turn up the kitchen heat. An attractive

kitchen can encourage buyers to overlook some of a home's less attractive components. In the kitchen, replacement countertops, wall color changes, new cabinetry and flooring offer the biggest ROI.

- Dreaming of a new bedroom. Remodeling magazine also points to creating an attic bedroom to increase home value. The ROI of an attic remodel that adheres to code can garner an 83 percent ROI.

- Home maintenance projects. There's little good to improving the aesthetic appeal and functionality of a home if there are existing structural or maintenance issues, warn experts. Siding replacement, HVAC system repair or replacement, a new roof, and basement dampness prevention solutions can be smarter investments before other flashy remodels. Many buyers have a strict budget for a house, and those buyers may be more likely to buy a house with little or no maintenance issues. Such buyers will then upgrade the kitchen or baths themselves, according to Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies.

- Worthy window replacement. Angie's List, a home services review and referral resource, has found that the average ROI of new windows is 77 percent. The cost of installation and energy savings tend to offset at around the 10-year point.

If remodeling is on the horizon, homeowners should give strong consideration to ROI before choosing a project.

## Factors to consider when choosing carpeting

When the time comes to choose flooring for their homes, homeowners may be overwhelmed by the vast array of options at their disposal. The choice between carpet and hardwood flooring, laminate or tile is a matter of personal preference. People have long extolled the virtues of hardwood flooring, but carpeting can be just as stylish and provides a host of other benefits as well.

Carpeting insulates rooms in the summer and winter, adding that extra level of protection against the elements. Carpeting also absorbs sound in a home. Many appreciate the warmth and cozy feeling of carpet, especially when stepping out of bed. Carpeting also can increase the level of safety at home. According to the Carpet and Rug Institute, carpeting makes areas of play safer and may also reduce the severity of an injury in the event of a fall.

Today, there are many different types of carpeting available. Selecting the right carpeting for a room comes down to identifying the level of traffic in a particular room, the attributes homeowners would like the carpet to have and any other needs that fit with their lifestyles. The following guidelines can make carpet shopping a bit easier.

### Type of carpeting

There are many different types of carpeting, some of which are best suited to certain situations. For example, plush and saxony carpets are better in low-traffic areas. These carpets may show footprints and also vacuum tracks and dirt, but they're higher on the comfort spectrum than other types of carpet. Berber, which is more flat and dense, helps mask stains and tracks. It is durable in high-traffic areas. Textured carpets like frieze are cut from fibers of different heights, so they mask stains and are also softer on the feet than berber.

### Padding

Padding can impact the way carpeting feels and how long it lasts. It isn't always necessary to purchase the most expensive or thickest padding. However, it is wise to pick a pad that matches the type of carpeting you're selecting and one that aligns with how you plan to use the room. You may be able to go with a thinner pad in low-traffic rooms and beneath dense carpeting like berber. In high-traffic rooms, choose a thicker, more durable padding. Padding prevents carpet backing and fibers from coming apart over time. It pays to invest in a padding that will last as well.

### Installation

Select a reliable carpet retailer and installer for your business. Competent installers will lay the carpeting in the correct manner so that it will look beautiful and maintain its durability for the life of the product. Shop around to find the right installer or even do the work yourself if you feel capable.

Take time when shopping for carpeting, which is a substantial investment that can last for many years if the right material is chosen and installed correctly.



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