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# New Hampshire **HOMES** & Home Improvement

Your guide for New Hampshire home owners & home seekers

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## Considering a pool, spa or hot tub? What you should know before you hire a contractor

A recent survey by the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) found that 82 percent of homeowners said they would use their backyard more if they had a pool. And nearly as many believe having a pool turns your backyard into an everyday vacation spot.

If you've been dreaming of a pool, spa or hot tub, this is your year to make a move. The APSP offers some tips to keep in mind while you're looking for a contractor to do the job.

■ Does the contractor you're considering have an established company with experience building pools or installing hot tubs in backyard environments similar to yours?

■ Has the contractor considered all factors in his or her cost estimate?

■ Does he or she understand any

unique safety concerns you may have?

■ Does your contractor understand your vision for your backyard pool or spa and can he or she help make it as cost-effective as possible?

■ Does your contractor participate in continuing education to stay abreast of the newest technologies, efficiencies and design trends in the industry?

■ Is the contractor you're considering an APSP certified professional? Contractors who achieve the APSP certification have proven knowledge of design and construction, are committed to continuing education to maintain their certification, and adhere to a stringent code of ethics. To find an APSP certified contractor in your area, visit [www.apsp.org/memberlocator](http://www.apsp.org/memberlocator). (ARA)

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# Upgraded decking materials offer quality and beauty

Tackling your home improvement list this summer likely includes doing some work on your outdoor spaces. If replacing or updating a deck is your focus, it's wise to look into new products that help ensure your efforts will be enjoyed for many seasons to come.

Eighty-three percent of Americans say low-maintenance qualities are important when considering outdoor home improvement projects, according to a Trex Company survey. Durable, hassle-free composite decks are more popular than ever among time-challenged homeowners because of their low-maintenance qualities. You might not know, however, that composite materials have evolved significantly since their introduction almost two decades ago.

"The newest generation of composite decking offers a superior combination of beauty and performance due to significant advances made in fade and stain resistance," says Adam Zambanini, vice president of marketing for Trex, the inventor and leading brand of the composite decking category. Following are four key attributes to look for when purchasing composite decking:

**■ Superior durability** - Spilled food, dropped grill tools and wet planter pots are no match for newer composites like the high-performance Trex Transcend collection. Transcend offers an unprecedented combination of fade, stain and mold resistance thanks to its exclusive protective shell and high-traffic formulation. Regardless of harsh weather conditions or daily wear and tear, Transcend also will not rot, warp or scratch.

**■ Realistic colors and textures** - With high-definition wood grain patterns and rich, saturated colors inspired by the outdoors, today's composites look more natural than ever before and boast a vibrancy that remains unchanged for years. Color options range from deep earth tones to warm umbers, spicy reds and pristine greys - while some boards offer the distinct streaked look of tropical hardwoods and others provide an appearance with less color variation. When combined with a modular composite railing system that provides similar high performance and long-lasting beauty, composite decking offers endless mix-and-match options for incredible design flexibility to suit the style of any home.

**■ Ultra-low maintenance** - The newest composites retain their



beauty for decades with minimal upkeep, meaning you'll spend more time enjoying - rather than maintaining - your deck this summer and for years to come. In fact, you never need to worry about sanding, staining or painting - just do a simple soap and water cleaning twice a year. Since spills, splashes and other mishaps are inevitable, it's extremely important to select a composite that guarantees no-fade color - so that your decking remains looking the same for decades as it did on the day it was installed.

**■ Strong warranties** - Lengthy warranties on next generation composites guarantee enduring good looks and offer additional peace-of-mind. In fact, Trex Transcend decking is backed by a 25-year Limited Fade and Stain Warranty, which is unprecedented in the industry and adds another layer of protection to Transcend's standard 25-year warranty - resulting in the ultimate assurance of lasting beauty.

"Today's composite decking is proof that sometimes the best can get even better," says Zambanini. "It combines unprecedented performance and aesthetics - taking the outdoor living experience to a whole new level for homeowners."

For more information about the latest innovations in outdoor living products - and for other ideas on how to spruce up your outdoor space with deck lighting, furniture, pergolas and more - visit [trex.com](#). (ARA)

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## Installing a vinyl fence the easy way

If you need to keep the neighbors out or the pets and children in, it may be time for a fence, preferably one that will last a lifetime and requires very little maintenance. But if you know much about installing a fence, chances are this is a home project that makes you want to run for the hills. After all, who wants to rent power augers, dig deep holes, tear up the yard, remove excavated dirt and pour hundreds of pounds of concrete?

Probably not you. The good news is that you can actually install a fence without all this hassle. Do-it-yourself homeowners across the country are now installing sturdy vinyl fences without digging holes, making a mess of the yard or pouring concrete.

No-dig vinyl fence systems are installed by driving pipe deep into the ground using a post pounder. Fence has been installed this way for years, but for vinyl it can be tricky because it's almost impossible to drive pipe into the ground perfectly straight, which results in crooked fence posts. This problem is

solved by a clever leveling device that compensates for the crooked pipe so that when you slide your vinyl fence post over the pipe, the post is ultimately straight and level.

While driving pipe into the ground can require a bit of muscle, it's still much easier than digging 3- or 4-foot-deep holes, dealing with excavated dirt and pouring three or four bags of concrete per hole, as most traditional vinyl fence installation instructions demand. Alternately, you can also rent a pneumatic post pounder to make it even easier.

Some skeptics wonder how a no-dig vinyl fence will perform in high winds. "We have had our digless fence products wind-load tested by an independent third party laboratory and it has been certified to stand up to 75mph sustained winds, which is where a category 1 hurricane starts," says Denise Esser from WamBam Fence, an online company that ships no-dig fence to homeowners all over the country through [www.wambamfence.com](http://www.wambamfence.com).

Installing vinyl fence by driving pipe into the ground has been used in Western Canada on tens of thousands of fences for more than a dozen years by both professional fencers and home owners. However, it's only recently that companies like WamBam



Fence have been manufacturing a full no-dig fencing solution designed for the do-it-yourself homeowner, offering a variety of styles and sizes. Alternately, there are companies that offer just the leveling devices to keep the pipes straight. This enables you to buy them online and use them with pipe, posts and panels purchased separately.

Homeowners often end up hiring a professional due to the amount of labor and equipment involved in a fence installation, but the no-dig method makes it much easier - and therefore more attainable - for the average do-it-yourselfer. With an innovative no-dig installation method, installing a vinyl fence is one home project that just got a lot easier. (ARA)

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## The three Ps of decorating for an instant home and garden makeover

Looking for a trendy home and garden makeover that gives instant gratification and doesn't require a lot of time and resources? The latest trends in fashion and home decorating are drawing inspiration from the bright colors and laid-back attitudes of the tropics.

Whether you want to makeover a deck, patio or porch, add some tropical flair by following the "three P's" of outdoor design: plants, paint and punch.

### ■ Plants

New Bloomtastic! and Patio Tropics! tropical plants from Hines Growers, offer immediate color and impact for any sized garden, deck, porch or patio. Simply leave them in their pretty pots to add lush flowers and foliage to your outdoor spaces or grow them throughout your landscape for a pop of vivid color.

### ■ Paint

Paint is one of the easiest, most economical ways to create a tropical feel inside or out. Choosing a color that reminds you of the beach



sets the theme for your overall design.

### ■ Punch

Adding tropical patterns and fabrics into your decor brings flexibility and endless possibilities. Cushions in tropical colors, throw pillows with bold floral designs and tropical inspired linens on the table are an easy way to add punch to your outdoor decor.

To see a full range of tropical plants and more inspiration, visit [www.hinesgrowers.com](http://www.hinesgrowers.com). (ARA)



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# Weekend warrior

## Add style, safety and storage solutions in the bath in less than 48 hours

The following tips and tricks will show you how to be a weekend warrior without having to hire a professional crew for assistance.

### ■ Step 1: Get inspired

Home magazines and online resources, are filled with all the newest color palettes, design themes and patterns to get your inspiration flowing.

### ■ Step 2: One-stop shop

Heading to only one or two stores is crucial for any weekend warrior. Your time should be spent renovating, not driving all over town for what you need.

### ■ Step 3: Finding the perfect products

For a weekend makeover, focus on the following products: paint, faucets, showering, accessories and accents.

\* **Paint:** Be sure to choose a semi-gloss or bathroom-specific paint, since the steam from hot showers can make the bathroom a harsh environment.

\* **Faucets:** When selecting your faucet,



consider style, finish, coordinating products and quality. The new Moen Boardwalk bath collection, for instance, features a blend of vintage design and classic lines for a stunning look in any bath.

\* **Accessories:** Bath accessories, such as robe hooks, paper holders or towel bars, are an ideal way to keep your room looking neat and coordinated. But the latest products can also add thoughtful functionality - and even safety - to your bath. For instance, are you tired of finding towels on the counter or floor, rather than hanging on the towel

ring? Put this pet peeve in the past with the new Moen Retractable Towel Ring. The new accessory offers the traditional benefit of a towel ring, with a retractable cord to allow the towel to be used while it remains neatly in place.

\* **Showering:** The shower is a place to escape and relax - so be sure to find products to enhance this space. Today's showerheads come in a variety of designs - wallmount, handheld, multi-function, rainshower - or a combination of all. Find the one that suits your style and be sure to choose a finish to coordinate with the rest of your bath. Need more space in your tub/shower? Try adding a curved shower rod. In addition to adding a unique style statement in your bath, it'll add up to six more inches of elbow room.

\* **Accents:** Once you've chosen all the hardware for your bath, you'll need to think of the softer accents to help pull your design together. A new shower curtain, decorative towels, throw rug and curtains will add the final finishing touch to your new space.

### ■ Step 4: Install and enjoy

Be sure to follow the instructions on each product's packaging and, in no time at all, you'll have a beautiful and delightful bath with added storage and safety solutions. For more information about Moen products, visit [www.moen.com](http://www.moen.com). (ARA)



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# Sign of the design times for kitchens

The number of kitchen styles and design options for homeowners to consider during the building and remodeling process is enough to make a person go crazy. Avoid feeling overwhelmed by simplifying your options.

## ■ Keep an eye on trends

Traditional? Transitional? Contemporary? The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) recently surveyed more than 350 designers to identify the top trends and styles they tend to incorporate into their kitchen and bath designs. According to this survey, transitional style, a combination of traditional and contemporary, is now the most popular style in both kitchens and bathrooms.

This marks the first time (since the NKBA began tracking annual design trends) that "traditional" is no longer the most common type of design. The survey also showed that contemporary is the next most common style



- with shaker, arts and crafts and cottage also following as frequently used styles.

Richer, warmer and darker wood species and finishes are dominating in popularity.

## ■ Determine your style

While it's good to be aware of the trends, keep in mind that you are the one who will have to live with this kitchen. Incorporate design elements that you and your family will enjoy for years to come. If you don't plan to stay long, consider resale value and how kitchen design might help or hurt it.

Determining your personal style is the most crucial step before the kitchen remodeling

process can begin (after budgeting, of course). Take pictures of other kitchens that you like and tear out pages from magazines. Scan home and design blogs to get ideas. Apartment Therapy recently revealed the best home design blogs with its award (as nominated and voted by readers), The Homies 2012. These blogs are a good place to start.

Several websites offer great resources and inspiration galleries for homeowners trying to plan their kitchens. QualityCabinets has an Idea Gallery that showcases a wide range of options, from more formal and traditional to sleek and contemporary. Pinterest is another great place to collect home and design ideas and save them to later share with your designer.

## ■ Work with a professional designer

While many people think they know their desired kitchen style, many have a difficult time articulating and identifying exactly what they want. A professional designer can help you design a kitchen that is comprehensive and consistent in design style.

The difficult task is designing a room that comes together as a whole versus bits and pieces. This is where a designer comes in and can turn a nice-looking kitchen into one that is both stunning and functional. Designers can also help you add a personal flair through the accessories, organizational features, hardware and finishes you choose. (ARA)

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# How to liven up your home with color

The summer months are all about color. From flowers in bloom to vibrant beach towels and colorful dresses, summer brings with it a multitude of hues. As you look around, you might start to feel like your home is a little, well, blah. If so, just adding a little pop of color into your home can help. Start by thinking about the colors you want to add, where color can make the most impact, and just how much you need to give your home a fresh look.

Here are a few tips to get you started on your adventure in color.

## ■ Explore color

More than likely, you already have a favorite color in mind and would be OK seeing more of it in your home. Or, maybe a little inspiration from the season's hottest hues would help. Either way, the first step is to explore color. Take a visit to your favorite clothing boutique, stop in at a paint store or flip through home design



magazines. Choose the looks you are most drawn to or the colors that evoke a feeling of happiness or calm. These colors reflect your personal style and will make you feel most comfortable in your home.

## ■ Start small

After picking a color palette, don't go out and paint your whole house with it, start small. Just changing your accent pillows, throws, lampshades or accessories can make a big impact when you are first incorporating a new color. Remember to make sure the color flows well throughout the entire space, especially if your home has an open floor plan with rooms

easily visible from one to another.

## ■ Accent with artwork

Another easy way to bring color to your home is by updating artwork and wall decor. Simply moving artwork from one room to another can give your home a refreshing look, and adding some newly purchased pieces to other spaces can breathe new life into your home.

## ■ Be brave

If you're ready to go all out with color, it's OK to make a dramatic change. The kitchen is a great place to go big with color and is usually the gathering place in the home. One of the best ways to bring bold color in the kitchen and set a tone for your entire home is to change your cabinetry. Take it a step further by choosing glass front doors and adding a contrasting back panel inside the cabinet. Cabinetry colors can bring whimsy and personality to the kitchen.

"Colorful cabinetry can be a big commitment, but it also can set your kitchen apart in a sea of design sameness," says Sarah Reep, director of designer relations and education at KraftMaid Cabinetry. The beauty of adding hints of color into your home is that with just a few thoughtful touches, it can feel as though your home has been completely made over. Be sure to carry elements of the color from room to room for maximum effect. (ARA)

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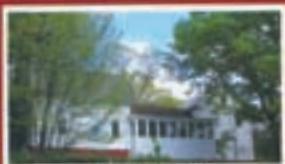
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**\$209,000**

Located in a nice neighborhood, this 3-BR, 2-BA home features a lower level family room, oversized garage and master suite with Jacuzzi. MLS#4063003



**\$219,900**

Need a lot of space? Then this super spacious 10-Room, 3-BR, 3-BA home is for you! Features a nice granite kitchen, wrap around decks & huge family room. MLS#4087654



**\$234,900**

Situated on 20+ acres near Pisgah park, this comfortable 3-BR, 2-BA home offers an expansive deck, tile floors, fresh paint and 2-car garage. MLS#4098373



**\$250,000**

If you desire privacy, you must see this true log home that's located on over 40-acres. Features 3-BRs, 2-BAs, wood floors & a nice studio. MLS#4095744

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REALTORS®



**WINDHAM** - Handsome hip roof colonial set on 3 acres of land. 4 BR's, 2.5 BA's. Attached 2 car garage. SS and granite in kitchen. Familyroom with stone FP. **\$329,000**



**SPRUCE POND - WINDHAM OPEN EVERY SUN. 12-3** - 3500+sf colonial with 3 car attached garage. Gorgeous kitchen. Big master suite. Facsimile shown. **\$588,900**



**VALUE IS IN THE LAND!** - Approvals in place for a new 2500+/- sq. ft. home with covered porch and attached garage. Panoramic views of Cobbett's Pond. **\$299,900**



**WINDHAM** - Immaculate and tastefully decorated colonial. Gourmet kitchen with granite and custom cabinets. Huge master suite - luxurious spa bath. **\$579,900**



**SPRUCE POND WINDHAM** - Dramatic new floorplan. Foyer with curved staircase opens to upper story bridge overlooking 2 story greatroom. Open Sun. 12-3. **\$544,900**



**WINDHAM** - Quick close possible on popular Morrison model at Spruce Pond Estates. Dramatic familyroom. Finished 3rd floor bonus room. 3 car garage. **\$484,900**



**WINDHAM** - Well cared for colonial on beautiful 1.49 acre lot with easy access to I-93. 3 bedrooms, many upgrades. Just move in and enjoy at **\$229,900**



**WINDHAM** - Spruce Pond: Why wait? 2009 resale offers every amenity. Gorgeous center island kitchen with bayfront breakfast area, huge familyroom. **\$499,900**



**WINDHAM** - Spacious custom colonial offering over 4,000 SF and set on a private 2.78 acre lot. Top neighborhood. **\$629,900**



**WINDHAM** - Striking contemporary. 2.21 acres in a cul-de-sac atop Jenny's Hill. Cherry kitchen with granite counters. Cathedral ceilings. 3BR 2.5 BA. **\$419,900**



**WINDHAM** - Spacious split-entry in a desirable neighborhood. Private lot. New maple kitchen with granite. 3 bedrooms. 2 baths. Immaculate condition. **\$289,900**



**WINDHAM - CANOBIE LAKE** - Waterfront home in prestigious neighborhood. 215feet of lake frontage. Country french brick home. First floor master suite. **\$669,900**



**WINDHAM** - Immaculate town house in popular Wynridge. Big livingroom with fireplace and bookshelves, finished lower level. 2 BR. 2.4 BA. **\$209,900**



**WINDHAM** - Impeccable quality in this full brick exterior, 4000+SF home built by Robert Scott. 2.4 acre estate lot abutting Windham Country Club. **\$599,900**



**SPRUCE POND WINDHAM** - Beautiful Lt. Reid Model with 3,420 Sq. Ft. Gorgeous custom kitchen. **\$569,900** Open Sundays 12-3, I-93, exit 3, R: 111, L: Rt 28



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**CHARMING STORYBOOK SETTING** - Where can you get a charmer like this for \$169,900? Adorable home in country setting. Estate sale may include some furnishings. Detached barn/storage shed. Very cozy! **\$169,900 472-4400 MLS#4080624**



**NEW PRICE ON THE SEACOAST** - This sprawling open concept home has soaring ceilings, a dramatic entry, tile and hardwood floors. 4 bdrrms, 3 & 1/2 baths, and a kitchen fit for a chef, all on a 1.21 acre lot (room for a pool) and within minutes to the beach! **\$799,000 MLS#4069228 472-4400**



**BACK ON THE MARKET!** - Lovingly cared for custom built colonial with space and privacy for everyone. Large eat-in kitchen, dining rm, living rm, family rm, loads of details - all within walking distance to stores, restaurants, ballfield & the Piscataquog River. **\$269,900 MLS#4060819 472-4400**



**CAPE ON NICE LOT IN WEARE** - This 3 bedroom cape has two full baths on two rural acres is subject to short sale. Needs a little TLC but at this price, it's worth it! **\$75,000 MLS#4114372 472-4400**



**SPACIOUS COLONIAL IN WEARE** - This lovely colonial has four huge bdrrms, sunken liv. room w/gas FP, hardwood, tile & carpet, fully applianced kitchen, w/walk-in pantry, walk-in closet, whirlpool tub in master suite, all on 6 ac. lot w/a country setting. **\$349,900 MLS#4112713 472-4400**



**ADORABLE STARTER OR RETIREMENT HOME** - All ready for you to enjoy, this ranch style home in a great location has a new roof, siding, furnace, sliders, septic and leach fields, and is just minutes to Goffstown. **\$179,900 MLS#4046667 472-4400**



**THIS HOME TO BE BUILT, SO MAKE IT YOUR OWN!** - Once you preview the model to see the builders workmanship you'll understand why this home to be built on a 2 acre lot could be perfect for you. 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, 2 car garage and optional geothermal! **\$296,500 MLS#4040755 472-4400**



**MULTI-FAMILY INVESTMENT** - This outstanding property presents unlimited possibilities to the wise investor! Large 1870 farmhouse with one 3-bdrm and one 2-bdrm apartment. The barn serves as the garage and the area to the rear of the property is included. **\$299,900 MLS#4105714 889-1875**



**SO MUCH IN THIS GRACIOUS HOME** - Amherst Colonial with 3 car garage, lg. country kitchen w/access to deck. 1st flr. master suite or in-law/teenage apt. w/separate entrance, 4BR, 4BA, LL playrm, large fam. rm w/custom built-ins, gas FP, newer roof & septic. **\$375,000 MLS#4114665 673-1775**



**Ginnie McCauley**  
Senior Loan Officer  
**Cell: 603.548.8950**  
**Efax: 603.386.6239**  
**ginniemac@comcast.net**

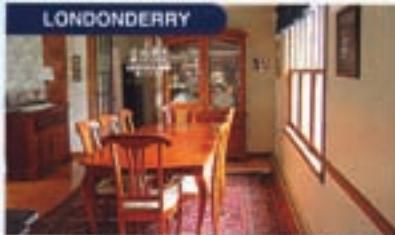
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RTE. 102, LONDONDERRY, NH 03053 • RESIDENTIAL DIVISION



**HISTORIC FARMHOUSE** - Excellent opportunity for large or extended family, in-law potential. Great horse property/gentlemen's farm on 2.37 acres with fruit trees and garden area. 13 rooms, 7 bedrooms, Carriage House, large post and beam barn with paddock, screen house, in-ground pool, 3 car garage, numerous updates. Great location to major points of interest moutains, seacoast, Boston. Minutes to 93. (Formerly Breezy Hill Bed and Breakfast) **\$499,900**



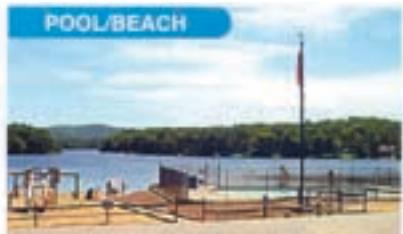
**SPACIOUS**



**BARNSTEAD**



**POOL/BEACH**



**VACATION YEAR ROUND (LAKES REGION)** - Nothing to do but move in! 10 minutes from Lake Winnipesaukee you'll find the perfect home in a well maintained 3 Bdrm cape in Locke Lake Colony, front to back liv. rm, spacious flr plan. H/W & laminate flrs, lg. bdrms, 2 full baths. Well landscaped, deck. Never be without power as this home is wired and equipped with a generator. Access to two lakes incl. multiple docks, 8 sandy beaches, 2 pools, play areas, tennis, and a golf course. Miles of access to Snowmobile trails. 40 min. to Gunstock Resort. **\$169,900**



**NASHUA**



**LONDONDERRY**



**RESIDENTIAL LOT**

**INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY** - 7 buildings ranging in size from 2 units to as many as 15 units in a building. Total of 50 units. 9-10% CAP rate. **\$2,500,000**

**OFFICE LEASE** - 1280 s/f, 6 room office with reception/waiting, kitchenette and file room. Private BA, private entrance. Superb location off 102 at I-93, exit 4. **\$1690/mo.**

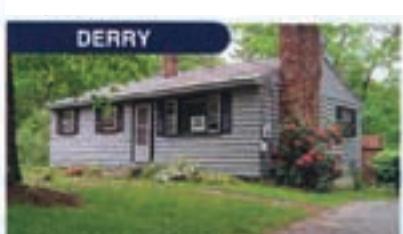
**SOUTH LONDONDERRY LOCATION!** - Private lot in established sub-division with five bedrooms, septic and well already on it, as well as a paved drive. **\$125,000**



**HUDSON**



**DERRY**



**DERRY**

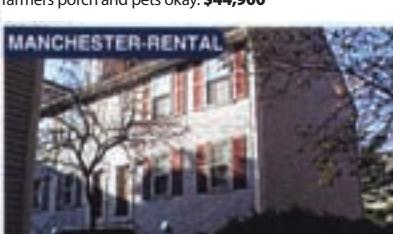
**MEDICAL CENTER/WALK-IN CLINIC** - 12,040 s/f of space available, former Family Med Ctr, Drs practice, & Physical Therapy Ctr. Can be leased separate. **\$7psf**

**SPACIOUS PARK LOT!!** - Nice area for this 2 bdrm mobile home. Peaked roof, 3-season sunroom, handicap ramp, farmers porch and pets okay. **\$44,900**

**MIXED USE - RES/IND** - 912s/f 2 bdrm home & 1000s/f wood frame warehouse, 3+ ac. ind. parcel. Uses: light ind. self storage, warehouse, & more. **\$375,000**



**LONDONDERRY**



**MANCHESTER-RENTAL**



**LONDONDERRY-RENTAL**

**GREAT STARTER OR RETIREMENT HOME** - Open concept ranch, vaulted ceilings, family rm with hearth for wood stove, full basement. Lovely 1.1 acre lot. **\$199,900**

**MUST SEE! BEAUTIFUL TOWN HOUSE** - fresh paint, hardwood flrs, new carpet, updated baths. Loft for added bdrm or office. 1 car garage, central ac. **\$1375/mo.**

**CONVENIENT COUNTRY SETTING** - 2nd level, private entrance, living rm w/combo din. & kitch, large deck overlooking rear yard, master bdrm with 2 closets. **\$750/mo.**



Joyce Bosse, Broker  
491-0559



Larry Colby, Agent  
545-7078



Don Duefield, Assoc. Broker  
478-3687

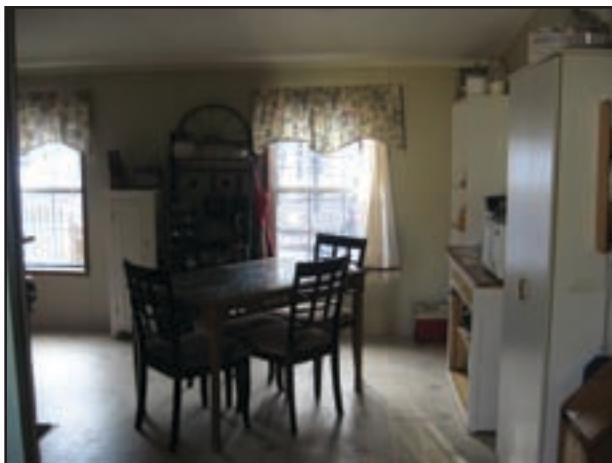
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**HILLSBORO.** More room than you'd expect: 4 bedrooms, lg livingroom, eat-in kitchen with separate diningroom and back deck for outdoor eating. Close to recreation (hiking, skiing, watersports, golf), NH Park & Ride, only 30 mins to Concord or Keene. In a park, but on a town-maintained road. **\$75,000**

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