

There are plenty of 'secret' hiding places in your home

I'm in the final stages of writing a book that contains hundreds of hacks that you might want to incorporate into your home. I got lots of help from many of my newsletter subscribers, who shared some of their best ideas. It's been a fun project.



Tim Carter
Ask the
Builder

The two categories that received the most response were electrical and secret storage. Thousands of homeowners need help with electrical outlets

and switches they feel are in the wrong place. The original electrician didn't consider the best locations for outlets and switches. You, or a more clever electrician, can rectify some mistakes.

You may be a homeowner who desires to hide small and large things in your home. I'll share with you a few of the ideas that my subscribers sent to me. The best ideas, of course, will be in the pages of my book. I think you'll enjoy what I'm about to reveal.

One of the easiest ways to create a small hidden space is to create a void between two walls. This needs to be done so that when you're in each room, you think the wall you're looking at is a common wall with the room next door. I have this situation in my own home now, where two large metal chimneys pass through the second floor up to the roof.

One of the walls is the back wall of the second-floor bathroom. The other wall is inside a closet in the bedroom next to the bathroom. You automatically think the two rooms share a wall. But there's actually a space about 24 inches wide between the two walls! The builder could have created a cutout in the hallway to this space. You could cover this opening with a large wall hanging or picture. A French cleat is best for holding the artwork against the wall.

Window seats are an ingenious way to conceal long items that might only be 3 inches tall lying on their side. You can create a false bottom in the seat. Imagine flipping up the hinged window seat and seeing the bottom. Who's to say there's not another six or eight inches

One of the easiest ways to create a small hidden space is to create a void between two walls. Cover this opening with a large wall hanging or picture using a French cleat.



If you get in the mindset of a magician, you might just conjure up some of the most creative secret places in your home.

of space under this bottom? There are many ways to hinge the false bottom so it flips up when you need access.

Do you need to hide some cash, jewelry or other bibelots that have sentimental value? You can store them in your refrigerator. Carefully clean an empty mayonnaise jar. Be sure you don't ruin the label. Then, pour some mayo-colored paint into the jar. Roll it around to coat the inside. Let it dry well, and alakazam, you can store valuables in the last place someone might look.

Do you have a workbench in your garage or basement? Is the top supported by a ring of two-by-sixes? If so, transform the front or side piece of lumber into a drawer front. Think of how the drawers work in the metal tool cabinets mechanics use. That same heavy-duty hardware can support the weight of a vast amount of thin, heavy items.

Here's one of my favorite ways to hide small items of value in plain sight. Go to library book sales. You can often get thick hardback books for a dollar or less. Do what you've seen in the movies. Glue the pages together and cut out the book's center to create a void space. Complete the illusion by stacking this book with 30 or 40 others you purchased at the sale. I have a stack like this out in my garage on a shelf.

JTHS-MIAMI, a Division of the MIAMI Association of REALTORS®

Speeding toward success: Brightline has positive impact on South Florida real estate

The Brightline high-speed rail network is revolutionizing transportation in Florida, significantly influencing the real estate market by elevating property values near stations and sparking new urban development. Since its launch in 2018, the \$6 billion project has boosted the economy, creating 10,000 jobs and generating a \$6.4 billion economic impact.

Brightline ridership increasing, building into South Florida's wealth migration

Brightline began service between Miami and Orlando in September 2023, quickly doubling its daily trips from 15 to 30 due to high demand. The train covers the distance in just three to 3½ hours, offering a seamless travel experience without the hassle of Interstate 95 traffic. Known for its luxury and comfort, Brightline stations are designed by The Rockwell Group and feature modern, spacious lounges. Train seats are premium leather seats used in luxury cars such as Lamborghini and Bentley.

Additionally, Brightline has introduced "buzzer beater" trains, departing 30 minutes after Miami sporting events, an attractive option for sports fans. This service ensures that fans can enjoy games without worrying about post-event traffic.

Brightline Stuart station aims to open in late 2026

The rail service is not just a boon for commuters but also a magnet for South Florida's growing affluent population, tying into the region's real estate boom. As Brightline expands, plans are underway for a new \$60 million station in Stuart, slated to open in late 2026. This addition will serve as a strategic hub, leveraging the local economy and tourism, with more than 5 million people visiting Martin County annually.

Brightline's future expansion plans include extending its network to Florida's Space Coast and Tampa, further integrating key Florida metropolitan areas. This expansion is set to cater to a broader audience, enhancing connectivity and economic growth across regions. Brightline's meticulously built customer experience has attracted South Florida luxury market of wealthy riders. The continued expansion and success of the signature yellow Brightline will be a boon for all of Florida.



Smitheman

Courtney Smitheman
2024 JTHS-MIAMI President
MIAMI Association of REALTORS®

Crane Reed Properties, LLC
561-301-0932
csmitheman@crane-reed.com

JTHS-Miami
2151 S Alt A1A, Suite 1100, Jupiter, FL 33477
561-746-2707
jthsmiami.com
Office hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

RESIDENCES

To advertise

Call 561-820-4300 or contact your Account Executive.

Residences is prepared by the Revenue Content Department of The Palm Beach Post. Copyright 2024. All rights reserved. All submissions and photographs are subject to editing. The opinions expressed in Residences are those of its columnists, not necessarily those of The Palm Beach Post, which neither endorses these opinions nor accepts responsibility for consequences resulting from actions taken regarding these opinions. Consult an expert before taking any action that might affect your physical or financial well-being. Advertised prices are subject to change without notice. E-mail rescovers@pbpost.com for more information.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PUBLISHER'S NOTICE



All rental and real estate advertising in The Palm Beach

Post is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Law, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin or any intention to make such preference, limitation, or discrimination."

In addition, the Palm Beach County Fair Housing Ordinance prohibits discrimination based on age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Moreover, the West Palm Beach Equal Opportunity Ordinance and the Lake Worth Civil Rights Act prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression.

The Palm Beach Post will not knowingly accept any advertising that is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings are available on an equal-opportunity basis.

To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 800-669-9777.

The toll-free number for the hearing-impaired is 800-927-9275.