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[About Us page:]

Understanding houses

Confessions of a “house” whisperer

You’ve probably heard of “horse whisperers,” who have an extraordinary ability to communicate with horses. Hetherwood’s founder, Bill Woods, has developed a similar sensitivity to houses. He doesn’t hear them talking, but he can tell a lot about them and what they’ve gone through by just looking around a bit.

He began learning about houses when he was growing up. All the men in his family were involved in home repair or construction in some form or other. His father still has his own home repair business. One of his older brothers specializes in flooring, the other in windows.

But Bill got even more of an education in the late 1980s and the 1990s. Under contract with the city of Minneapolis, he completely rebuilt 20 houses that had to be stripped down to their frames before they could be restored. By taking houses completely apart, he got to see what moisture, weather, and time could do. It helped him better understand how houses live, breathe, and react. “Sometimes it’s only when you open up a wall that you can see what’s going on,” he says. “But often you get a feeling for what’s happening to a house by just walking around. You can tell how the weather and the years have affected it. You know what’s going on inside.”

Bill knows what to look for then, and he’s taught his craftsmen to do the same – so they avoid patching over the surface when you may have significant problems underneath. They’ll also let you know what to look out for down the road and what special steps you can take to better protect your home.

Caring about you and your home – and the work we do

Bill loves his work. “Of course everyone needs to make money,” he says. “But the big payback for me is when the owners tell me they’re happy with what we’ve done – and then we feel happy about it too.”

He looks for the same values in all the craftspeople he hires. “We usually end up picking family men, married men, who are steady, down to earth, and serious about that they do.” People who really care about their work.

Being on the safe side

Bill is also careful about the products his people recommend for use in your home. “For example, we don’t use vinyl in any of our materials,” he says. “It’s really toxic. It can be

dangerous if it catches on fire. And it doesn't break down in a landfill. So we try to protect not only the homeowner but the environment.”

This is why, even though his people keep up on all the latest building materials and products that promise to look better, last longer, or save you energy, he always waits until those products have been around long enough to prove that there are no serious downsides before using them in your home.

Want to know more? Call us now at 952 472-1600 to talk to a representative. Or drop by our showroom. If you're considering a renovation, check out our *renovations page* [\[link\]](#) to find out how we can make things easier for you.

Hetherwood Home Repair and Maintenance

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