

Rebuilding *for* Recovery

by Susan Ciambrone

Hurricane Sandy turned our lives upside-down here at the Jersey Shore. We are all trying to move forward and look toward to better times ahead. A critical part of our recovery is returning our lives to become as normal as possible, with familiar comforts and little indulgences that bring us joy. Rebuilding facilitates that recovery and there are opportunities to make smart, economical, long-term investments that both add value to your home and comfort to your life.

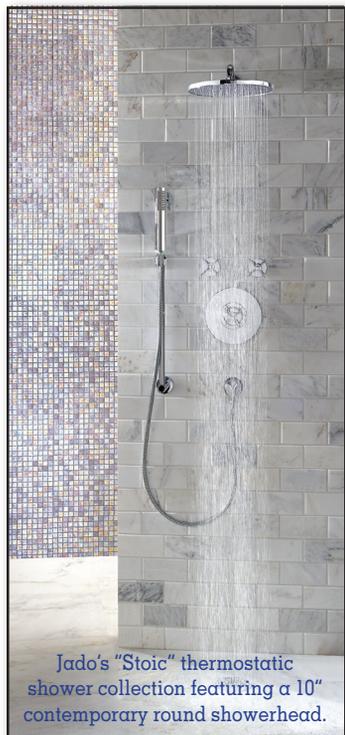
New Toilets with New Features.

Today's toilets are the most efficient ever, using just 1.28 gallons per flush, saving 20% more water than the previous generation of toilets. Most manufacturers now offer an antimicrobial process that helps reduce growth of stain- and odor-causing bacteria in the toilet, which can be very helpful if your home was subject to sewage issues. For example, American Standard's patented EverClean® process is baked into the surface, so it's permanent. This antimicrobial treatment is also offered on most toilet seats as well. Plus, today's toilet designs help make cleaning easier. Concealed or "skirted" toilet bowls offer a smooth surface — no more visible traps to clean in and out. And, almost all toilets are now chair height, making them more comfortable.



Porcher's "Archive" LXP, EverClean®, RightHeight, concealed, one-piece toilet.

Tub vs. Shower. The rebuilding process can be a good time to consider making a tub vs. shower switch or upgrading one or the other. If you like bathing, consider installing a deeper tub with a spa system. American Standard also offers the EverClean® system in most of its spa tub collections, making it the easiest way to help keep your whirlpool and air-bath circulation system clean. Conversely, if you never use your tub to soak in, think about replacing the space with a large shower. You can achieve the same spa feeling in a shower by adding multiple showerheads. You may need to speak with a professional plumber and to find out where you can plumb on your walls or ceiling if you want to add a rain head from



Jado's "Stoic" thermostatic shower collection featuring a 10" contemporary round showerhead.

above, or body sprays at various heights. Another option is a steam unit and a seat to achieve that spa experience. After this process of the renovation is over you will be able to relax and de-stress in your whirlpool or air-bath tub or in your steam, rain, or multi-head shower.



American Standard's "Town Square" EverClean® acrylic whirlpool tub.

Meal Prep and Cleanup. Kitchen faucets have become much more functional in the past few years and these new features make meal prep and cleanup faster and easier. The minimal look of a pull-out faucet integrates the faucet, pull out spray, and handle all in one. The pull down feature is an easier and more natural way to access the sprayer. Given all we hear today about the importance of hand washing for disease prevention and food safety, an integrated soap dispenser has become a must. As for the kitchen sink, go deeper. Most sinks now are offered in a 10" depth, which allows more space to wash foods, scrub pots, and hide those dirty dishes you don't get around to cleaning right away. Don't forget to add the bottom grid, to help protect the finish on your sink.



Jado's Coriander Culinary Kitchen faucet with two-function hand spray, shown in polished chrome

Ventilation. Proper ventilation of bathrooms and kitchens is critical to the health of your house. Renovation is a good time to add or upgrade a fan — especially if the fan you have is noisy. Today's fans are much quieter. Panasonic offers many features in exhaust fans, including with or without lights, heaters, motion sensors and humidity sensors that turn on when they sense humidity in the room. They're not only powerful, but quiet too. Just make sure you order the size with the most CFMs to accommodate your space. It's as easy as multiplying length x width.

During your rebuilding process, it is important that you work with established, reliable contractors and suppliers who are local to our area. Sadly, people do get taken advantage of after disasters by unscrupulous companies or dishonest contractors. Look for businesses that are established in our community, don't pressure you, and will really take time to help you think through your options and make good decisions for rebuilding.

Susan Ciambrone is Manager at The Showroom at Atlantic Plumbing Supply in Long Branch. Visit atlanticplumbingsupply.net for more information and to browse among many options.