

Color: Fall hues

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ent changes one can make.

"The beginning of autumn is a great time to trade in those sheer, summery window panels for something warmer and more dramatic," Gibbs said.

Window coverings serve as insulators for keeping heat in as the temperature falls. If you're not ready to change your drapes, Pier 1 has fun beaded tie-backs and accent charms for window panels that will also add personality and flair to a room.

As the days get shorter, the need for extra lighting becomes crucial. Accent lamps and hanging lanterns are great options for additional lighting that will also add color and flair to your space.

"It's amazing the impact one small accent lamp can have on an entire room," Gibbs said. Pier 1 also has unconventional nightlights in rattan, silk and faux feathers to light up dark hallways.

Changing something as simple as the scents in your home is another easy way to welcome the new season. Gibbs suggested switching out summer-scented candles for some that reflect the mood of the season.

"Candles are a softer, less intrusive way to light up a room," Gibbs said. "Spiced Orange, Cranberry Citrus and Cinnamon Roll are just a few of the new candle fragrances that Pier 1 is introducing for the fall and holiday season."

These smells are sure to evoke thoughts of homemade pies and cranberry dressing,

Slabjacking is alternative to concrete replacement

Camano Island company serves NW Washington.

A new company based on Camano Island is promising a "lift" to residents of Island, Skagit and Whatcom counties trying to solve sunken concrete problems.

Superior Slabjacking Inc. is owned and operated by Shannon Schwehm, president and Patrick Hayes, vice president.

"When we were in the process of buying our house on the island, we saw a lot of sunken concrete. That's when we decided to start our operation on Camano, offering our 14-plus years experience primarily to the residents, businesses and governments of (northwest Washington)," said Schwehm.

Slabjacking is a technique developed in the 1930s. It has been used extensively in the Midwest and East Coast to raise or float concrete that has fallen due to earthquakes, erosion, poor soil stability and other causes. The technique has been used successfully to raise and stabilize porches, walkways, basement and garage floors, driveways and patios.

Customers have said that the cosmetic and functional improvements are amazing. "It was like magic, and they didn't ruin any of my flowers," said Kim Goodman of Bellingham.

Mark Williams of Camano Island said he was impressed with the expertise and

quality of the Superior Slabjacking work.

Problems that can be eliminated are: trip hazards and the potential liability associated with them and pooling water that settles near a house and could seep into the basement or crawlspace. The cement slurry is also excellent for filling voids, including unused oil or septic tanks or bulkhead voids.

The slabjacking alternative to concrete replacement can usually be accomplished in one day. The soil slurry used to raise the slab provides a stable base for the existing piece.

The cost to raise the concrete slab to its original position is approximately one-third the cost of replacement, and since slabs are not being removed, there is very little mess and no waste. Also, since slabjacking does not add waste or debris to a landfill, it is much more environmentally friendly.

Additional benefits are that surrounding grass and plants are not dug up or disturbed and the color of the concrete remains constant.

Doug Bender, a special inspector from Bellingham, said that he was very impressed with how little impact slabjacking makes upon people and property. "Their operation will definitely benefit many homeowners and companies who have concrete slabs which have settled over time," he said.

How does it work? After determining the best approach to the problem, the craftsman drills a number of holes into the sunken slab. Then the dense slurry is strategically pumped into each hole, similar to tighten-



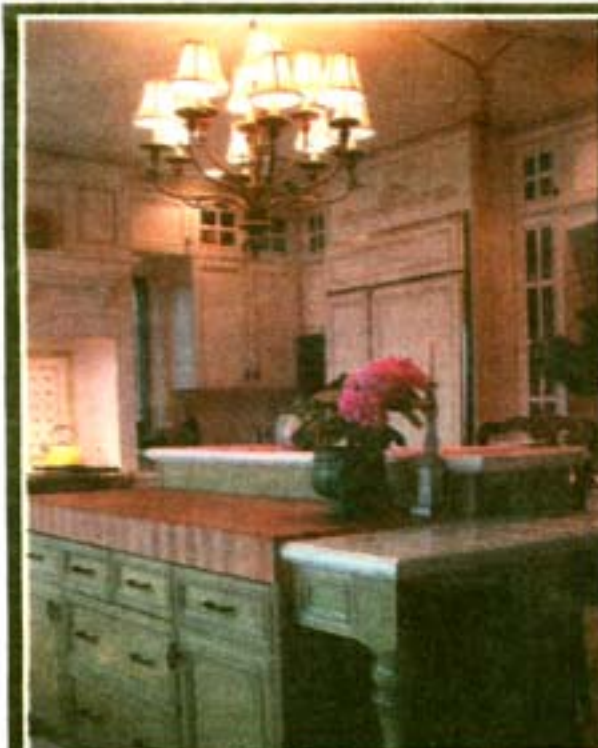
ing the lug nuts on a tire. The air or "void" under the slab is replaced with the slurry, raising the slab, which can be expected to remain lifted.

Superior offers a three-year conditional guarantee of its work.

Pricing is dependent on travel time to the jobsite, accessibility of water and power, and ease of getting to the slab. Other factors are volume of materials and number of hours required to perform the job.

A free, no-obligation bid can be given.

Phone Superior at 1-888-887-2473, visit the website at <www.SuperiorSlabjacking.com> or email to <Patrick@superiorSlabjacking.com>.



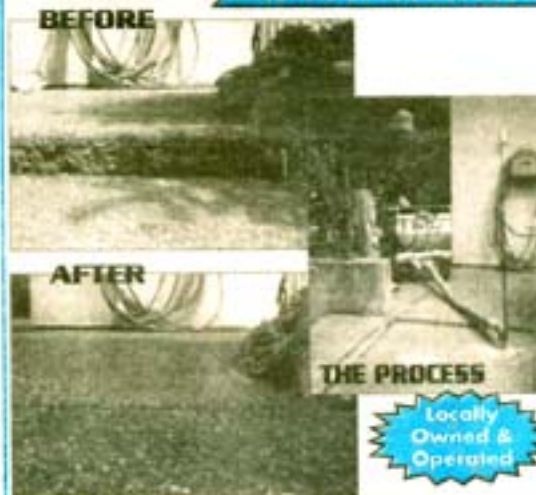
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