



HANDY INFORMATION FOR YOUR STAY AT THE MARATHON COACH SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Coach Remodeling

Floors, Tile, Video, Décor, We do it All!



SERVICE DEPARTMENT



MARATHON COACH OREGON

Service Department: **800-365-0156**

Corporate Number: 800-234-9991

HOURS

7am - 4pm

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Coach Remodeling Trends

Interior design trends are continually in flux. Who can forget the earthy tones of the 1970s—harvest gold and avocado green walls juxtaposed against wall-to-wall, electric-orange shag carpeting? Believe it or not, variations of these three colors are back in vogue. Even shag carpeting has made a comeback, but now they're calling it "frisé." Still, when we grow tired of our theme, what do we do? We remodel. Interior trends come and go in residential homes, and the same applies to Marathon coaches. Owners may be fond of their coach's floorplan, yet want to update the interior to reflect their unique personal style. Remodeling can be a satisfying experience. Not only do you acquire the features you need, but you can also obtain the one-of-a-kind style you've always desired. Are you ready for a makeover?

Coach Remodeling Do's & Don'ts

Remodeling is a relatively broad term; it can be as simple as updating the lighting, reupholstering furniture or switching out a few accessories to alter the look and feel. Or it can be completely redoing the bath, replacing floors and tile work, reconfiguring space to accommodate electronics or a computer

workstation, or taking advantage of multiple uses in the underbelly.

The Marathon Sales and Service Technicians recognize that customers have different motivations and needs. When exisiting customers decided to purchase a new coach, giving their existing one to their son, he decided he



Switching to HDTVs and adding computer workstations are in high demand.

wanted a complete remodel. We listened to his ideas and then created an interior that completely suited his taste. Other customers come to us to have furniture redone or to upgrade from carpet flooring to stone or hardwood. According to the Marathon Coach Oregon Service Manager, Chris Welch, Marathon Oregon typically

does 25 to 30 remodels a year. Although the requests vary from the mundane to the imaginative, the most popular projects include flooring, upholstery, valances, in-dash GPS, flat-screen TVs and exterior paint.



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Technology upgrades are quite common as well. Popular electronic upgrade items include DVRs, 3D TVs, surround-sound systems, GPS mapping systems and even camera surveillance systems. With the advances in technology, we see people working from their coaches more than ever. Because of this, we get numerous orders for computer stations—even in newer coaches, people are requesting an extra workstation. Our experienced service technicians assist owners with structural changes, for instance, constructing a computer work space, which is currently in high demand. We find that workstations are a relatively easy undertaking in most coaches. Many people don't know that we have an inventory of already built, stock cabinets



42" LCD HD TV

for some of the older coaches. There are times when a customer comes in for a computer cabinet when we can say, 'there's one right here.' We simply have to wrap it in the proper laminate and build a deck—it's all done very quickly.

When customers first come in with their ideas, a technician evaluates the coach to determine if the project is viable. "The creative possibilities are endless with all the materials and recent innovations we have here," said Welch. "We listen to our clients because not only do they know what they want, they come up with some of the most interesting ideas."

Redesigning the Interior

The motorcoach industry tends to echo many of the same national trends in home interior decoration, and fads come and go, but according to Marathon Coach Interior Designer Al Christianson, the designer's job isn't to discourage anyone, but rather, to listen to the client's ideas and guide him or her toward a satisfactory end result.

Christianson finds that a client's personal ideas can always be implemented or adapted in a way that's complementary and tasteful in the small space of a coach, but not overwhelming. Ultimately, we want the clients to feel comfortable in their environment and for the environment to reflect who they are.

Because we're here to make our clients' dreams a reality, Christianson often recommends a design style that is "transitional," in the sense that it incorporates some traditional, as well as modern, elements. Generally avoiding materials and accessories that

are excessively large scale, Christianson tends to gravitate toward earth tones as these are the timeless colors people often choose—tan, black, gold and brown—possibly adding a splash of color such as red. The team then pulls all of the old and new elements together to give them a classic look. That's the beauty of interior designers, no two coaches are the same. We're able to implement ideas and be innovative on every project whether that is more modern in one scheme, traditional in the next or something in-between!

Owners who are contemplating



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Original couch and accessories



New couch and accessories

a remodel should also consider how they use their coach. Do they travel with kids or animals or do they use the space primarily for entertaining? For clients who use their coach in a heavy-duty capacity, Christianson recommends choosing durable fabrics and accessories. For instance, treated leather, sunbrella and kryptonite products are quite durable. There's also a wide variety of new velvets, chenilles and silks that are made with extremely durable fibers that mimic the look and feel of the original, yet are rated

for high-use or contract use, and are even fire rated. For those meticulous clients who use their coach only for entertaining or "light duty," they might want to consider incorporating some elegant silks and fine crystal accessories.

According to Christianson, if an owner has a coach with sofas, he or she should consider having them both upholstered. Balance is important in a small space, so placing one leather sofa across from one fabric sofa can cause the space to be disconnected and can suggest that there

was a shortage of one or both materials. Perhaps the most inexpensive way to achieve a new look is by simply adding accents. Small changes can often make a tremendous difference. A few coordinated and well-placed accessories can change the entire look and feel of a coach. "Accessory pieces can make all the difference," said Christianson. "They can address a specific trend or add a certain feel to a coach without a long-term commitment."

Indeed, accessories are the only upgrade some clients request. Christianson

enjoys putting together a full accessories package for clients. With custom designed pillows, galley ware, lighting, artwork and rugs, he can completely transform the look of a coach. If a coach is very neutral, black and beige for instance, he can bring in some dramatic accessories and color accents to liven it up. He's found that clients love the transformation, often telling him it feels like a brand new coach.

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Asian themed coach interior with Soji doors

Using Themes

If you're in the mood for a completely different vibe, themes are another way to go for sprucing up a ho-hum interior space. A terrific example of a theme coming to fruition was achieved with a pre-owned Marathon coach purchased by Bill and Patti Woods. Before the remodel, their coach reflected a more traditional style, and the furniture arrangement

didn't reflect the Woods' lifestyle. "There was nothing wrong with it the way that it was," Bill said. "but we didn't like the couch arrangement. We felt it was a little too stark, or a little too formal that you're sitting across from each other." Additionally, because the Woods use their computers a good deal when traveling in the coach, the L-shaped dinette also didn't



suit their needs. Typically, customers spend time on the phone with the interior designer or come in and sit down to discuss and choose color schemes, design ideas, new materials, etc., but in this case, the Woods knew exactly what they wanted — southwestern. They offered no other input, telling the interior designer on the

project to use her imagination. And they were pleased with the results. Bill Woods sent Marathon an e-mail detailing what he and his wife Patti wanted. "You guys are experts at what you do, you do it every day, so my philosophy was to give you the general idea and then let

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Autumn themed coach interior

you run with it," he said. "We simply said, 'please make it happen, and we'll be more than satisfied'...and we are."

For the Woods' remodel, the designer eliminated one of the couches and recommended a complete dinette rebuild. Because it was more traditional looking; a little bit formal, the designer selected

a dinette fabric that brought out the colors that already existed in the coach and worked to mutate it into something with a southwestern feel. She also commissioned a new pile sculpted rug with a southwestern motif to complement the chocolate leather sofa, which the Woods loved.

What's Hot?

So what are the hot trends that people are asking for? According to Designer Al Christianson, clients are updating their backsplashes and shower bands to incorporate new materials such as stone, glass, ceramic and metal tiles, as well as upgrading the faucetry and bath accessories with finishes such as oil-rubbed or natural bronze and brushed nickel.

The designers receive many requests to remove existing carpet or solid surface flooring and put in granite, marble or wood plank flooring. Many clients are also interested in adding flooring accent tiles in metal or contrasting materials. Requests for hardwood flooring has also increased,



not only because of the warm style they add to a coach's interior, but also due to the ease of use and durability. Of course, bamboo flooring has grown in popularity due to both its beauty and sustainability. And if they're not removing the carpet, they're upgrading to a sculpted design to add interest and drama to the space.

Reupholstering furniture can certainly change the entire look, but in addition to updating the obvious furniture pieces, headboards, stiles and valances can also be redone. "When it comes to upholstery, I take my client's taste into consideration while analyzing the style and design

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Slide-masters have a 2,000-pound capacity and pull out like a huge drawer.

of the piece,” said Christianson. “I choose a fabric, be it something timeless such as a soft leather or muted print or perhaps something with a dramatic pop, that fits the client’s lifestyle. The fabric I choose for someone who travels the country with a Saint Bernard may be very different from what I choose for a couple who are primarily urban dwellers.” As addressed earlier, a complete accessories package installation can go a long way toward revitalizing the inside of a coach, as can adding or switching out lighting, rugs or new bedding and pillows to introduce splashes of color—a great way to soften, liven up or completely change the overall look.



Travis Barker had us convert his closet into a full tiled shower.

Structurally, the service department has had requests to remove mirrored ceilings, which can be replaced with three-panel headliners for a more classic and toned-down effect. Another popular upgrade area is the entryway. People have been gravitating toward the stainless steel and the new polished door panels that are featured on most of Marathon’s newer coaches.

Marathon coach owner Travis Barker had us convert his closet into a full tiled shower to accommodate not only his needs, but those of his guests. It also includes a removable rod for hanging clothes when the shower’s not in use. Every inch of his floorplan has a purpose with room to work,

Custom barbecue grills that slide out from the bays are immensely popular.

play and rest.

A sometimes overlooked area is the underbelly, or bay sections of the coach. Although the dimensions vary depending on the type of coach, its year and whether the coach has slide-outs, the space underneath can be transformed in a variety of interesting ways—from installing wine coolers and freezers to storage cabinets and closets. The underbelly entertainment center is a frequent request, particularly in older coaches that have the smaller 20-inch TVs. Recently, Marathon installed a barbecue for a customer that slides out from the bay.

Another popular item for the bay is an air operated “slide-master,” a slide with bearings that works like a huge drawer, allowing customers to easily stow and retrieve stored items without having to crawl around inside the bay. With a 2,000-pound capacity, this unit can hold a tremendous amount of weight.



Ideas for uses of the underbelly space are only limited by one’s imagination. The underbelly of a coach is also spacious enough for humans. “We recently did a bedroom for a customer’s teenage son,” said one service technician. “We cut a hole in the floor and made a hatch, which was hidden by carpet. When the boy wanted to go to the room, he simply moved a recliner, opened the hatch and took the stairs we put in going down.” In addition to a bed, the hideaway included a TV with a DVD player and a small A/C wall unit.



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Remodeling Experts

If you're considering a remodel, Marathon is here to help. Unlike a remodeling project in your residential home, in which you must work with several companies and people—one business for flooring, another for countertops, yet another for tile and so on—Marathon's Oregon facility offers full service interior design, remodels and upgrades.

According to the Marathon Coach Oregon Service Manager, customers benefit from Marathon's collusion of creativity, quality materials and workmanship. With access to the interior designers, their knowledge and resources, as well as all of the experience and expertise in the service department, clients receive the full treatment as if they were putting together a brand new coach.

In most cases, coach owners can spend the majority of their time in the coach, sleeping in their own beds each night. Depending on the amount of work that needs to be done, we have found that for most jobs, the customer is not inconvenienced. "We want our clients to enjoy their stay," said Welch. "That's why we provide RV pads with full hook-ups and Wi-Fi."

Once a coach owner has decided to pursue a remodeling project, Marathon's service and design departments work closely with him or her throughout the entire process. Customers are encouraged to bring their ideas, lists and particularly, examples, which might be something they saw in Marathon's annual calendar, a magazine or a

feature observed in a neighbor's new coach.

Bill Woods summarized his coach remodel experience this way: "I believe in giving kudos when they are earned: It was a pleasure dealing with Marathon. I think people absolutely should take advantage of their services because we are more than

pleased with our 'new' remodeled coach."

Now that you know about all the hot trends, and basic do's and don'ts of interior coach remodeling, perhaps it's time to let Marathon's design experts help you attain that one-of-a-kind style you've always wanted.



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Remodeling

The only limitations to remodeling a coach have to do with structure and cost. Altering walls, subfloors and some ceilings may have limitations that need to be determined by a technician.

Most Popular Remodel Items

- Flat-Screen TVs
- Exterior Paint
- Furniture Reupholstering
- Flooring
- Valances
- Underbelly/Bays
- Tile Backsplashes
- Fixtures/Lighting
- Decorative Accessories

Pricing

Because of the wide variety of remodeling possibilities, pricing is estimated on a per-project basis. Let us know what you have in mind and we'll review your coach to make sure there are no floorplan or structural limitations.

We Look Forward to Working with You!

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