



DO-IT-YOURSELF

The road to home improvement hell is paved with good intentions. The top quality materials, expert advice and inspired selections here will put you on the path to success.

Quilting Fabrics and Notions

Folk Art Quilts

Folk Art Quilts has everything from a gigantic supply of cotton fabrics and threads, to patterns and classes so we can make our own. Okay, they won't end up in a museum, but they are more affordable and instantly sentimental. Instead of counting sheep, we'll drift off into sweet dreams counting the money we saved. *344 Main Street, Wakefield, 789-5985*

Shrubs and Trees

Post Road Materials and Garden Center

In addition to being the tidiest nursery around, this low-key establishment is one of the most helpful. Wannabe landscape designers like us are easily overwhelmed at bigger places. But these guys still offer plenty of options and unlimited friendly advice, easing our fear of making a green mistake. *3688 Quaker Lane, North Kingstown, 295-4399*

Handmade Tiles

Wickenden Kilnworks

Stunning custom and vintage tiles (think delicate, hand-painted birds and graphic black-and-whites) just beg to transform a tabletop or fireplace surround. After you summon all your willpower to resist the to-die-for ceramic lamps and vases—each more fetching than the next—the tile project itself will seem like a cakewalk. *398 Wickenden Street, Providence, 274-0022*

Specialty Hardware

Humphrey's

Instead of one dinky aisle, Humphrey's devotes a whole room to specialty hardware. The walls are ablaze with knobs, latches, handles and hinges from well-known companies like Nobilus, Emtek, Belwith and Top Knob for a foolproof way to give an instant facelift to a ho-hum bureau or, say, the entire kitchen. *590 Main Road, Tiverton, 624-8800, buildwiththeh.com*