

LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER OF OLYMPIA MASTER BUILDERS



Remodeling with Family in Tow: Toddler Tricks & Aging Adult Adventures



Join us for the OMB Lewis County Chapter Meeting

Thinking about joining OMB—or want to get more from your membership? Join us for the OMB Lewis County Chapter Meeting every third Wednesday of the month at the Moose Lodge in Centralia. Connect with local professionals and learn how OMB membership can help you grow and succeed. For more information, contact Jenn at membership@omb.org.

A home remodel can be thrilling—new cabinets, sparkling countertops, and fresh paint everywhere—but when you throw toddlers or aging parents into the mix, it can feel more like a circus than a construction site. Fear not! With a little planning and humor, you can keep everyone safe, entertained, and surprisingly happy.

1. Create Your Zones

Think of your home as a mini “construction theme park.” Block off active remodeling areas with gates, temporary walls, or even

colorful tape. Toddlers need safe zones to explore, and your aging parent will appreciate a quiet spot to relax without dodging sawdust or paint splatters. Bonus: turn it into a game! Who can spot all the “danger zones” first?

2. Turn Downtime Into Playtime

While walls are being demolished or floors replaced, toddlers get restless fast. Pack a bag of favorite toys, puzzles, or a tablet with educational videos to keep little hands busy. For your aging parent, consider

low-key “remodel adventures”—think helping pick paint colors, arranging furniture mock-ups, or testing ergonomic kitchen layouts. Who knew choosing a faucet could be so thrilling?

3. Communicate the Chaos

Toddlers understand a lot more than we think, especially when stories are involved. Spin a narrative: “We’re giving the kitchen a superhero makeover!” Older adults also benefit from a heads-up. Share the day’s schedule, noise levels, and areas to avoid—no one likes a surprise jackhammer under their nap spot.

4. Safety First, Always

Toddlers are naturally curious, and aging adults may move slower or be more prone to trips. Keep tools, nails, and paint supplies locked away. Slip-resistant rugs, sturdy handrails, and plenty of lighting can prevent accidents. Consider “construction shoes” for everyone—it’s amazing how fun it is to stomp around like a builder!

5. Celebrate Small Wins

Finally, make it fun! Toddlers love a ribbon-cutting moment when a new cabinet

is installed, and your aging parent will enjoy seeing progress on their timeline. Treat the day as a mini celebration—because every shelf hung and every floor leveled is a victory worth cheering for.

Remodeling with toddlers and aging adults isn’t just manageable—it can be memorable. With creative planning, a sense of humor, and a few safety tweaks, your home transformation can be a family adventure that’s safe, fun, and maybe even a little glamorous.

OMB Lewis County Industry Advocacy Update

Lewis County Housing and Development Update

Across Lewis County, several planning efforts underway this year will influence how the county and its cities accommodate housing and economic growth over the next two decades.

One of the most significant efforts is the ongoing Lewis County Comprehensive Plan periodic update, which guides

land use, housing capacity, infrastructure planning, and economic development policies countywide. The plan establishes how Urban Growth Areas around cities like Centralia and Chehalis will expand and how future housing demand will be accommodated through 2045.

At the city level, both Centralia and Chehalis are continuing their own planning efforts tied to long-term growth strategies. These updates

evaluate zoning, infrastructure needs, and development capacity in order to support population growth and housing demand over the coming decades.

Economic development activity is also shaping the housing conversation. Industrial growth connected to regional logistics and manufacturing is expected to bring new jobs to the county. For example, the Port of Centralia projects thousands of jobs connected to businesses in its industrial parks

and related developments in the coming years.

Similarly, recent investment at the Port of Chehalis is expected to create significant employment opportunities tied to new operations facilities and distribution activity.

Together, these planning and economic development initiatives highlight a growing challenge for Lewis County: ensuring that housing supply keeps pace with job growth.

Local governments across the county are continuing to evaluate policies that support responsible growth while maintaining the character and economic vitality of the region.

As these discussions continue through 2026, decisions about zoning, infrastructure investment, and growth planning will play a major role in shaping Lewis County’s housing market and economic future.

Welcome New Lewis County Member: PNW Craftsmen

Your source for excellent work in Thurston and Lewis counties. Serving Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, Rochester, Centralia, Chehalis, and any of the surrounding areas. Learn more at <https://pnwcraftsmen.com/>

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APRIL 18-19, 2026

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The BIG Home & Remodel Show

Get Your \$2.00 Off Coupon at omb.org!

The OMB Big Home and Remodel Show is the only one of its kind in Olympia – a one-stop shop for all your Home and Remodel needs! You’ll see professionals in many home-related fields from Remodeling to Garage Doors to Landscaping, and everything in between. Bring the family and enjoy food trucks and a Kid Zone, featuring our annual Lego Brick Building Contest for ages 5-12! Tickets are \$7.00 and \$2.00

discount coupons are now available at omb.org. Military will receive 50% off all weekend, and Seniors will get a 50% discount on Senior Day Sunday. Interested in becoming a vendor? We’d love to have you! You do not need to be an Olympia Master Builders (OMB) member to participate, though OMB members enjoy a 20% discount on booth space—just one of the many benefits of membership. Register today at OMB.org.

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Now Accepting 2026 Scholarship Applications!

The Olympia Master Builders (OMB) Education Foundation is accepting applications for scholarship grants ranging up to \$2500 to college or vocational/technical school-bound students, who currently reside within Thurston, Lewis, Mason, Pacific or Grays Harbor Counties.

Students intending to pursue studies leading to a career in the building industry such as: engineering, architecture, drafting, industrial design, carpentry, construction management, etc. are encouraged to apply. Applicants must reside within Thurston, Lewis, Mason, Pacific or Grays Harbor counties and be a US citizen.

Visit omb.org to apply today!