



PHOTOS BY TAMMY LJUNGBLAD | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Krista Williamson teaches classes on home repair and maintenance in a storefront workshop in Overland Park.

JOB DESCRIPTION: *Owner and instructor of K2 Workshops, a home maintenance and repair instruction center for women and men, 7393 W. 97th St., 913-439-1581, www.k2workshops.org*

What's your own home like?

I live in a 1960s split level in Overland Park. All the homes in the neighborhood are a similar style and are in need of updating.

What's your experience in home repair?

I've done a lot of remodeling. I redid a home in Waldo and then remodeling work for other people as a contractor. In related experience, I'm a project manager for a museum design firm. I travel all over the country working with contractors and architects.

What got you interested in teaching classes about home repair?

I love talking about fixing things, and I'm passionate about tackling projects. I grew up in a household where we had the mentality of fixing thing ourselves, which is relevant in this economy. We didn't have the means of always calling professionals. When it was beyond what my mom, dad or other family members could do, then we'd call a pro.

What's been beyond your scope of expertise?

The roof. It's an accident waiting to happen unless you call someone in. I've also called pros in for furnace and air conditioning. But other than that, it's been me.



At K2 Workshops, each work station has more than a dozen tools. For a guide on how to select tools, go to www.k2workshops.org/products and scroll down to the bottom of the page.

What are examples of your workshops?

Three-hour courses in beginning electrical work, understanding your toilet, plumbing clogs and leaks and preparing your home for sale. There's a six-hour basic home-repair workshop for women.

What's your take on pink tools for women?

I like that they get some women interested in home repair, but some of them are not necessarily good-quality tools.

What's your favorite tool?

When cordless drills came out, it turned the world around. You're no longer tethered to a socket.

What are some future workshops you'd like to teach?

Painting, crown molding and specialized courses. For example, remodeling a bathroom from beginning to end: the tiling as well as installing a tub, shower and vanity.

What's your current house project?

My office/laundry room. I built the cabinets myself.

Any insider tips on using tools?

A block of wood comes in handy when you're using a hammer. Just hitting a hammer into something can damage the surface. The block of wood disperses the energy.

What's your advice on home repairs?

Don't be afraid to try it and don't be afraid to ask for help.

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