

By Alison Coleman

GIVING your home a makeover will increase its value and enhance your living space. In these recessionary times, that's the choice many home owners have decided to make, leading to brisk trade in the home improvement business.

It's also what has attracted prospective investors to franchise and business opportunities within the sector, including Canopies UK, which manufactures door canopies and canopy protection systems.

The company, based in Darwen, Lancashire, offers a range of self-supporting canopies that can be used for various purposes, such as sheltering a car or creating extra space for outdoor occasions that might otherwise be spoiled by inclement weather.

Sales are strong, with turnover up by 15 per cent year on year, and people are being recruited to take on a Canopies UK business and expand the network nationwide.

Commercial sales manager Matthew Eastwood said: "Ideal candidates range from

It's time for home work



husband-and-wife teams to small and medium-sized conservatory firms. All have been successful at taking on our product and trading within an exclusive area." Householders wanting to improve

their property's external appearance often invest in a new-look driveway or garden, while leaving an old or unsightly garage door. However, restoration is now possible without the need to go to

the trouble of replacement. Garage Door Restore of Blackpool, Lancashire, has developed a maintenance-free, glass-reinforced plastic door skin that can be attached to an existing garage door.

Customers are delighted to be saved the major expense of fitting a new door.

Demand for these innovative doors is growing and the company is keen to recruit more people to provide the service.

Business development director Damian Webb said: "Our appointed agents have joined us from many different walks of life, from former IT consultants and senior managers to experienced tradespeople, attracted to a business opportunity with an innovative, unique and environmentally friendly product."

Recent investment in product development has allowed the company to offer customers a bespoke door, complete with fitting kit and next-day delivery.

Mr Webb added: "Our agents can now benefit from a reduction in installation time of around 30 per cent, while continuing product research and development is allowing us to penetrate the international marketplace."

INFORMATION:
 ● Canopies UK: 01254 777002/
www.canopiesuk.com
 ● Garage Door Restore: 0845 602 7192/www.garagedoorrestore.co.uk

Happiness is a clean oven for former BBC technician

ACCORDING to Grantham Speake, happiness is a clean oven, and as an Ovenclean franchisee, having cleaned thousands himself over the last five

years, he should know.

With some 4,000 happy customers, he insists that one of the biggest rewards of working for himself is the satisfaction of a job well done.

He said: "Flexible hours and making an excellent living are on my list of priorities, but the pleasure my service brings to customers is the reason I feel fulfilled."

Being made

redundant provided this former BBC studio technician with the chance to make a career change.

What drew him to the domestic and commercial oven-cleaning franchise Ovenclean was the company's strong track record and simplicity of its business model.

He said: "Everyone has an oven and they all need cleaning, which is a job almost everyone hates. Since I started, I've never looked back."

INFORMATION:
www.ovenclean.com



A handy calling...

By Alison Coleman

ONE of the UK's most experienced franchisors is behind 0800 Handyman, a new franchise offering DIY enthusiasts the opportunity to run their own repair and maintenance business.

Dyno-Rod founder Jim Zockoll, along with key members of the Dyno team, acquired 0800 Handyman 18 months ago and launched the franchise opportunity earlier this year.

The aim is to professionalise the traditional handyman service.

Managing director Clive Smith said: "We serve domestic and commercial customers, dealing with the many odd jobs and maintenance tasks that need doing, and applying the high standards that appeal to anyone looking for a great service at a great price."

Working from home, franchisees benefit from high levels of support.

A central call centre books jobs on behalf of franchisees, while 0800 Handyman arranges and funds marketing activities.

0800 Handyman's first franchisee, Wakefield-based Julian Henthorn, said: "It's great being out and about meeting people, and I get huge satisfaction from every job, knowing that I've resolved a customer's problem."

Ideal 0800 Handyman candidates should be competent at DIY and have a bright, confident personality and enterprising attitude.

INFORMATION: 0800 999 5646/
www.0800handyman.com

OUTDOORS TYPE:
 Julian Henthorn



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0800 HANDYMAN

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DO YOU WANT TO RUN YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

WHERE so many businesses have struggled to survive the recession, countless success stories have emerged, many from within the UK franchising sector.

As a business model, franchising has survived the downturn better than most, and while consumer spending has been falling, the industry has been growing.

Figures from the latest Natwest bfa 08-09 Franchise Survey show a rise in the number of franchise brands, up from 809 last year to 838, and in the total number of franchised outlets, from 34,200 to 34,600, while 90 per cent of franchise companies are in profit, out performing other business start ups.

The unique franchising format of a locally owned and run enterprise, driven by small business owner, combined with branding, economies of scale, and the support of a larger network, offers the consumer the best of both worlds, and the business a far better chance of success.

Anyone planning to start up and run their own business ought to give serious thought to franchising as a proven, readily available business prospect.

Embracing virtually every business sector, from health and fitness, food and drink, and cleaning, to motoring, home repairs and recruitment, franchising offers something to suit all skills and interests. And with a wide range of investment levels, there are franchise opportunities to suit all budgets.

The security and prospects offered by franchising will give a new generation of business owners the freedom and the opportunity to take control of their future and realise their potential.

INFORMATION

- To choose the best franchise for you then go to www.dailyexpressfranchise.com or see our market leading sections in Daily Express every Monday and the Sunday Express.

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