

Twisted Highlights

Day of the Tornado

Every wondered what it's like to race towards your house after it's been hit by a tornado? "Twisted" includes a very detailed account of the high-emotion sprint home.

Aftermath, Cleanup, and "Vultures"

Within hours of the tornado, friends stopped by to calm us down, assess the situation, and help secure the house... and the "vultures" descended upon the tornado zone. Sitting on the front steps of your destroyed house, just 2 hours after the tornado... being approached with a "Good Afternoon!" by a salesman? Less than awesome. Having the situation repeated dozens of times over the coming week? Maddening.

While our friends joined us in our cleanup efforts, we had to come up with creative ways to deal with these vultures. It became a sanity issue... and involved waterballoons, police, and some very unscrupulous contractors/salesmen!

Social Media Response

Within minutes of the tornado, Marie's Twitter handle became a trending topic locally. Not only were people talking about the fact that her house had been hit, they were mobilizing in droves! We had so many offers of labor, resource help, etc - it was difficult to keep up with all of the people reaching out to us!

While we were going through our own issues, a DJ in NYC was pulling together a bunch of online resources for the Minneapolis tornado victims. His page "North Minneapolis Post Tornado Watch", as well as the accompanying resource website is probably the most impressive effort from any person, non profit, or other entity throughout this entire ordeal. "Twisted" goes into detail about his amazing work.

Creative Use of our Dearly Departed Tree

Rather than chopping it up into small pieces and having it removed, we had our 100+ year old walnut tree milled! Once it's finished with the drying process, it will be used to rebuild the kitchen cabinetry (cabinet exteriors and doors)

Help from the Geek Community

As two people who have never been recipients of any sort of nepotism, we were blown away by the response from the local and distant geek communities. The support was nothing short of amazing, and still brings a tear to our eyes!

Jambalaya

A week after the tornado - while we were living in a hotel - we decided that it would be therapeutic to take part in a big neighborhood cookout being put on. We bought some groceries for it, and made 270 servings of jambalaya. In a turkey fryer. Using a homebrew mash paddle as a wooden spoon. In the parking lot of a funeral home. It was an amazing experience!

Twisted Gingerbread as Creative Coping Method

Though Marie had never made a gingerbread house before, somehow we decided that it would be a great idea to make a gingerbread representation of what our house looked like the day after the tornado. It was pretty awesome - photo enclosed!

Fighting with the City

There's a whole chapter on this, and it's impossible to sum it up in a couple sentences, other than "What a mess. Greed and incompetence are a really bad combination"

Nerdy Bathroom and Backsplash

We tiled Fibonacci sequence into our bathroom wall, and 159 digits of pi into our kitchen back splash. Obscenely nerdy, unique, and gorgeous. Our back splash tutorial went viral online, with outlets such as ThinkGeek, Make Magazine, and PC World writing about it!