



Making Your House A Home: A Guide To Home Improvement

There is a lot that can go wrong with home improvement projects. Remodeling or fixing up your home can make it a much nicer place to live and can raise your property value, if you do it correctly. This is a bit of advice we have put together for you to keep in mind on your next home improvement weekend.

Before you commit to a new paint color for the exterior of your home, spend some time driving around and looking at homes that you like the look and color scheme of. Paint chips are too hard to envision, so seeing it in person can help you make a better decision.

When it comes to home improvement, it is not uncommon to ask for a contractor to provide references from their previous jobs. This is important to ensure that their prior customers received the satisfaction that you desire. It is not abnormal to ask for this, and if the contractor acts otherwise it is most likely because they have something to hide.

Keep your home smelling scented and fresh by making your own potpourri sachets. Buy some little jewelry organza bags and fill them with store bought potpourri. To boost the scent, pour some aromatherapy oils on top. Display them in different areas of your home to create a nice and scented environment.

A great thing about home decor is that oftentimes it doesn't have to match. You can buy a great dining room table and mix and match chairs. This is great for cottage and country-styled homes. Buying a table second hand and adding chairs from different places actually creates a great design element, as well as a sense of accomplishment. Give those used chairs a chance to shine!

If you have an issue with privacy in your living room or trying to define different spaces, a great way to do that is by using privacy screens. Privacy screens come in a myriad of designs, and you are sure to find one that matches your home. You can define different spaces by installing your privacy screens in a way that blocks the view from that particular area.

As you prepare to list your home for sale, it may be tempting to undertake major remodeling projects to increase the house's appeal. These projects can easily run up credit card debt,

which can damage your ability to secure favorable credit ratings and loan approval. Instead, look for small updates and inexpensive repairs, to make your home more appealing to potential buyers.

Linoleum is a great alternative to tiling, as it is much more wallet friendly. However, it can get scuffed quite easily with use. You can quickly get rid of linoleum scuffing by rubbing white toothpaste on it with a cloth. Another quick fix is spraying WD-40 on the affected spot and making sure to degrease the area when you're finished, with soapy water.

Insulate exposed pipes in your home. If uninsulated, pipes can freeze during the winter. This can cause a great deal of stress and headache since you won't be able to access running water. The pipes could possibly burst. Exposed pipes may be located where you are unlikely to see them, such as, in the attic or the basement.

Removing wall paper is something that may sound easy, but it actually takes some skill. You need to know what type of wallpaper you need to remove, and what type of wall you have. Based on the wallpaper you have, you then either need to dry-strip it or soak it and scrape it off. Make sure [Bricks](#) do your research to determine what needs be done.

While major home improvements can grow very expensive, homeowners should avoid taking home loans to fund renovations unless it is absolutely necessary. Unless the renovations in question are needed immediately to prevent damage or make a house fit for sale, it is better to let them wait. Funding home improvement work from savings or investments is far superior to funding it through debt.

As you can see, home improvement has the potential to do a lot of good in the aesthetics of your home as well as it's market value. Making some wise investments may really pay off in the long run and make your home more energy efficient and valuable.