10 DIY Home Projects That Add Value to Your Home

**While you're spending extra time at home, add value to your house with these easy do-it-yourself projects.**

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Now is a great time to spruce up your yard with a new a vegetable garden or fresh plants. (Getty Images)

Whether you’re looking to put your home on the market this spring or sell further down the road, there are many [home improvements](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/articles/the-guide-to-home-renovations) you can do on your own to add value to your home. A well-informed homeowner will keep track of all remodels and updates over the years, and will also be aware of the projects that can provide the best return on investment.

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[**The Guide to Home Renovations**](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/articles/the-guide-to-home-renovations)

Even if your plans to put your home on the market are derailed by the coronavirus pandemic, the added time you're spending at home means you can take on some updates as do-it-yourself projects.

The average return at resale for [home improvement](https://realestate.usnews.com/360-reviews/home-security) projects is 63.7% of a project’s cost if the home is sold within a year, according to Remodeling Magazine’s 2020 annual Cost vs. Value Report. Here are a few relatively easy do-it-yourself projects that you can check off your list for cheap and [add value to your home](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/articles/the-guide-to-understanding-your-home-value):

* **Deep clean and declutter.**
* **Paint the interior.**
* **Spruce up your yard.**
* **Add lighting.**
* **Refresh your bathroom.**
* **Overhaul your closet.**
* **Refinish or paint your cabinets.**
* **Replace your floors.**
* **Update kitchen appliances.**
* **Remove popcorn ceilings.**

**Deep Clean and Declutter**

First impressions count when selling your home. Make the interior of your home shine from floor to ceiling by taking the time to spruce up your space. Pick up personal items and store them away. Wipe down counters, baseboards and all areas inside and outside of the house. Remove smudge marks on all windows, doors and mirrors. Deep cleaning and [decluttering](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/articles/how-to-declutter-your-home) your home is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to keep your home looking its best while getting ready to sell. More importantly, it helps make life easier. Dan DiClerico, smart home strategist and home expert for HomeAdvisor, based in Brooklyn, New York, explains that decluttering and getting your home in order room by room will help decrease your stress level, especially if you’re battling anxiety as you spend more time at home.

[See: [Best Home Security Systems of 2020](https://www.usnews.com/360-reviews/home-security)]

**Paint the Interior**

A fresh coat of [paint](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/slideshows/interior-design-trends-to-look-out-for) can go a long way when it come to buyer impressions. Painting your home's interior is one of the most cost-effective improvements you can do, as newly painted rooms will add value by providing a clean and updated look. “It is more time-consuming if you really want to do the job right,” DiClerico says. Make sure to properly clean and prep surfaces, tape edges and doorways and apply a couple coats to make the new paint look consistent. Stick to neutral colors when choosing your paint so it will appeal to a large number of people.

**Spruce Up Your Yard**

Any yardwork that improves the [curb appeal](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/slideshows/10-secrets-to-selling-your-home-faster) of your home will benefit you in the long term, and you’ll be more inclined to spend time in the space if you give it more love. Now is a great time to plant a vegetable garden or replace old, dead plants with new plants that will thrive, says Abeer Sweis, an architect and design partner for architecture firm SweisKloss in Santa Monica, California. If you're looking to make [landscaping](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/articles/diy-backyard-renovations-on-a-budget) changes that appeal to more homebuyers, choose low-maintenance landscaping, such as beds of mulch or drought-tolerant plants.

**Add Lighting**

Brighten up your home without breaking the bank by simply opening [windows](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/articles/how-to-choose-energy-efficient-windows-for-your-home), cleaning skylights and removing outdated curtains that may be blocking natural light. Have old lighting fixtures hanging from your ceiling? Get rid of any eyesores by updating your lighting with an eye-catching chandelier or a modern ceiling fan.

**Refresh Your Bathroom**

Outdated and boring bathroom fixtures can really take away from the room's style and feel. Giving your bathroom a quick refresh is a great DIY project to prep for [selling your home](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/articles/the-guide-to-selling-your-home). Upgrade fixtures, such as knobs and pulls, and check for leaky faucets or poor drainage. “You just need a screwdriver to be able to replace (knobs or pulls) with a similar type of hardware,” Sweis says.

**Overhaul Your Closet**

If your version of decluttering quickly turned into piling items inside your closet, you might want to consider a new [closet organizer](https://money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/spending/articles/best-affordable-closet-organizers-from-wayfair) system. Brands like EasyClosets and ELFA allow you to custom design your new closet based on the measurements and what you want to store there. All the materials and instructions can be shipped directly to your home for a DIY project. “It’s a project that will take you more than a day but helps you do some of those things you’ve wanted to do (in your house) but never touched,” Sweis says.

[See: [The Best Time of Year for Every Home Improvement Project](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/slideshows/the-best-time-of-year-for-every-home-improvement-project)]

**Refinish or Paint Your Cabinets**

If you’re looking to employ more skill than painting interior walls requires, consider taking on the project of sanding and either staining or painting your kitchen cabinets. “This is a fantastic way to completely transform the look and feel of a kitchen, but it’s very time-consuming,” DiClerico says. The project is best done by removing your cabinets from the wall, then patiently sanding away the existing finish before going through the process of applying a new stain or paint.

**Replace Your Floors**

Homebuyers prefer hard flooring options over wall-to-wall carpeting. While the idea of removing carpeting and refinishing wood floors on your own can seem like a daunting task, this DIY project can be done on a budget with the proper tools. Be ready to take the time to remove the existing carpet or other floor material, as well as prepare the space and install new flooring. But new wood floors, or even high-quality vinyl or [tile](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/slideshows/tile-trends-for-your-home-in-2020) floors, can deliver a significant return on investment and help your home sell faster. “I might say think twice about (a project this size) in normal circumstances, but longer-term projects like this can be done while you’re home now,” DiClerico says.

**Update Kitchen Appliances**

The kitchen is the part of the home that gets the greatest return when updated. While this is a more expensive option, upgrading your kitchen appliances like the dishwasher, microwave and stove can increase [the value of your home](https://realestate.usnews.com/agents/how-much-is-my-house-worth/). Consider choosing stainless steel when updating your kitchen, as this style is popular among buyers.

**Remove Popcorn Ceilings**

Popcorn ceilings may not make or break a deal, but they tend to date and devalue a house, causing potential buyers to look the other way. You can remove your popcorn ceiling yourself with the proper equipment, but if you have an older home, check if it contains [asbestos](https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/articles/is-your-home-a-death-trap-dont-take-the-chance-test-for-asbestos). If your popcorn ceiling does have asbestos, you'll want to wait until it's easier to be away from the house while a professional carefully removes it.

10 Interior Design Trends for 2020

**Which design trends are on their way in, and which ones should you ditch in 2020?**



By [Devon Thorsby](https://www.usnews.com/topics/author/devon-thorsby), Editor, Real Estate

1.Zen Dens break up floor plans

2.Master Suites expand

3.Inside and outside continue to blend

4.organic elements are here to stay

5.wallpaper and texture provide depth

6.velvet becomes a staple

7.blue is the color to incorporate

8. say goodbye to grey-its brown beige and navy time

9. computer rooms are out , charging stations are in. Drop zone for charging could be the mud room.

10. Minimalism moves over for imperfect antiques, vases, mantels and tiles.

**2020 Top 5 Paint Colors To Sell Your Home**

 by [**Debi Collinson**](https://www.addvaluetoyourhome.ca/author/admin/), addvalueto yourhome.com



**2020 Best 5 Paint Colors To Sell Your Home**

**Updated March 1, 2020**

**The number one question I get asked during a staging consult is:**

***“What color should I paint my house?”***

**The number *two* question I get asked when I tell someone they need to paint their house is:**

***“Why do I need to paint my house?  I really like the colors of my home.”***

Trends in paint colors for getting your house ready to sell come and go just like any other design trend.

  Sellers have been covering up their beige walls with gray for several years now.

  The popular colors were dark cooler grays and dark taupes.  The colder darker colors are definitely out.  People got tired of dark gray walls.

Especially on cold dark nights where the shadows from the lack of sun light made dark cold walls seem even darker if that’s possible.

**When you’re selling your house, the walls should be neutral.  Neutral walls is the canvas like an artist’scanvas to create a masterpiece**.  Its the backdrop to add the décor and accessories which will add pizzazz to the home. The purpose of staging/getting your house ready to sell is that you’re appealing to the majority of the buyers.  You’re appealing to 80 to 90% of the population.  That means you need to make your house neutral, trendy and appealing to the masses so that they can picture themselves living in your home.  If potential buyers feel the need to paint your house, they will either move on to another house that doesn’t need alot of work, OR they will just take the amount of money off in the offer that they feel will cost them in time, labor & materials.

Popular staging colors change from year to year.  Many years ago, the go to staging paint color to sell your home was Benjamin Moore’s Revere Pewter, a warm darkish beige.

 **This trend had a long stretch but was replaced by more cooler grays like Benjamin Moore’s Gray Owl, OC-52 where you would see EVERYWHERE regardless if it worked in a room or not.**

Cool grays are lighter now, **and the warmer grays (greige as they have become known as) are lighter too.  White & soft creams are also becoming a fan favorite, especially in new builds and commercial spaces.** Grays are more popular in some areas, whereas white is more popular in other areas.  You need to know the trend in your neighborhood before you paint.  Are you in an older suburb? Trendy condo or townhouse? Or a relatively new build?  That’s why it’s important to go to open houses in your neighborhood so you will know the trends.

In one house I staged, the owner had complained about the furniture that I put into the home.  It was the first complaint that I ever had about the furniture.  The challenge wasn’t the furniture.  The challenge was, the *PAINTER had chosen*the wrong color (picture at left) and it was difficult to make the house look warm & inviting.

 He picked a medium cooler gray because it was the trending gray at the time.  The kitchen cabinets were a warm honey oak while the floors, were a warm but darker reddish oak.

 The color he choose was a trendy but cool gray and clashed with the natural woods in the room.  The wrong color choice was very evident in the bedrooms where the cool gray clashed with the warm beige carpet.  The room felt “off” o matter how great the furniture looked in the room. The correct color would have been a warm gray or a “greige” as we call warm grays, a tan or a cream.

There are lots of flooring trends going on this year. If you’d like a glance at the 5 hottest flooring ideas, here’s a quick rundown.

1. **Wood-look flooring**. This isn’t new to 2020. Wood-look flooring in laminate, vinyl and ceramic tile has been hot for years now. In fact, it’s been the #1 flooring trend 2 years in a row now, with no end in sight.
2. **Waterproof flooring**. For years, tile was really your only waterproof flooring option. But! It’s 2020 – that means you can now purchase waterproof vinyl, laminate and even carpet. This new feature is a dream for busy homeowners, families and pet owners.
3. **Textured flooring**. Mimicking classic hardwood, you’ll see handscraped, wirebrushed and fully distressed floors in wood, laminate and more.
4. **Environmentally-responsible flooring**. Beyond looks, in 2020, homeowners want to know where their floor came from. Using natural, renewable, recyclable and home-grown materials is huge right now.
5. **Blonde flooring**. Don’t worry; gray is still big! Blonde is just also in and it’s making a huge splash. Light, airy, blonde flooring works with just about any decor and instantly makes your room look bigger.