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HOMEOWNER'S UPDATE

5 Home Renovation Myths

Myth #1: *All home improvements provide a dollar-for-dollar return on investment (ROI).*

In reality, you usually only get back a percentage of what you spend.

Myth #2: *Permits aren't necessary.*

Not true. Check your city or county website for details on permits required in your area.

Myth #3: *DIY is a great way to save.*

What if your project ends up being too complicated for your skill set? It could be even more expensive to hire a pro to fix what went wrong than to hire a pro in the first place.

Myth #4: *Temporary or partial repairs will provide the long-term answer.*

Many DIY repairs aren't covered by a warranty, which can be a deal-breaker when it comes time to sell your home.

Myth #5: *The latest trend will always be popular.*

Trends are eye-catching, but some may go out of style just as quickly as they came in style. It pays to stick with timeless designs.

Bottom line, the best approach to all home renovations is the informed one. Be wise with your renovation and reap the ROI.

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Is Your Home Due for a Summer Makeover?

Imagine you're a stranger touring your house. What would you update or replace? To spark your creativity, browse magazines and Pinterest boards for tones, colors and textures that speak to you. Even the smallest new touches can refresh the whole feel of a room. You can start small by adding new pillows and lighting or rearranging furniture. For a more dramatic change, consider these makeover ideas from FamilyHandyMan.com.

Stylish Window Treatments

Heavy drapes in outdated fabrics can age your rooms. If blinds are dirty or broken, think about replacing them.

UPDATE: Horizontal blinds and lightweight curtains help refresh and lighten your interiors.

Open Spaces

Floor-to-ceiling mirrors were popular in the '80s to make a small space look bigger.

UPDATE: Vaulted ceilings and picture windows are a great way to open up a room and bring in more light.

Chic Finishes

Old wallpaper and borders can age your home dramatically. Consider hiring a pro to strip old paper and hang the new.

UPDATE: If you like the feel of wallpaper, try a modern faux-finish or a painted pattern such as stripes.

Bright Bathrooms

Glass block windows can sometimes date your space.

UPDATE: Skylights offer an updated way to bring more natural light into your bathroom.

On-Trend Colors

You loved those trendy paint colors back in the day, but now they look like a timestamp.

UPDATE: Create space and airiness by painting walls in lighter neutral colors.

Elegant Fixtures

Dated light fixtures don't do much to complement today's decor.

UPDATE: Dramatically change a room with modern or industrial lighting in updated colors and materials.

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Get Rid of Household Bugs

Do you cringe at the thought of what might lurk beneath that old cardboard box in the corner of your garage, basement, shed, or other storage area? If you're tired of dealing with bugs in your home, the following tips can help you eliminate them.

Keep Things Dry

Some bugs are drawn to dark, damp areas, so keep your storage areas as dry as possible by fixing leaky pipes or faucets and using a dehumidifier.

Clean Thoroughly

Sort and examine all storage items, and clean every surface before putting them back. Pay close attention to small areas where bugs can hide.

Move the Food

Don't store food near your household storage areas, as it can attract unwanted pests.

Hire an Exterminator

If your bug problem becomes overwhelming, it may be time to bring in a professional.

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Unique Pots for Plants

If the gift of your green thumb has your plants quickly outgrowing their more traditional pots and planters, don't despair. Consider repurposing or finding unique containers to display plants around your home, greenhouse or garden. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

Birdcage

You can turn an antique cage into a unique hanging planter. Line the cage's base and cover with burlap, chicken wire and moss. Add container potting mix and trailing plants like ivy or donkey tail for an eye-catching look.

Furniture

Excess furnishings or thrift-store treasures such as wooden chairs, old sinks or even broken appliances can be used as industrial-style planters. Be sure to pay attention to the depth of your planter. Shorter plants, like succulents, fit great

in a shallow-basin sink, while taller outdoor plants would thrive in a deeper sink.

Tea Set

If you're unsure what to do with your grandmother's old tea set, consider painting the pot and cups in fun colors or designs. Your new planters are heartwarming reminders of a loved one.

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Baked Salmon Fillets

Ingredients

2 (6 oz.) salmon fillets
1 Tbsp. dried basil
1 Tbsp. paprika
8 cherry tomatoes, halved
1 Tbsp. olive oil
2 handfuls fresh spinach
Red onion for garnish

Directions

Preheat oven to 375° F. Line baking pan with foil and lightly coat with cooking spray. Place salmon on foil and top with basil, paprika and tomatoes. Drizzle with oil.

Bake for 20 minutes until center of salmon is opaque. Remove from oven and serve on a bed of spinach with onion garnish.



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