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HOMEOWNER'S — UPDATE —

Townhouse Living in 2025

What feels like home varies from person to person, but quality, comfort and connection are common threads that tie it all together. For those craving a well-designed space, a balanced lifestyle and a sense of community, townhouses check all the boxes.

Smaller than a typical single-family home, a townhouse can be a great option for urban dwellers, people entering the housing market or homeowners looking to right-size. And the numbers don't lie — as buyers have opened their minds to the versatility of townhomes, builders have responded. In fact, townhouses now account for a greater share of new-build listings than they did at the start of the decade.

Historic Roots, Modern Appeal

Originating in 17th-century Europe, this unique floor plan started catching on in America as cities like New York and Boston began to grow. These multi-story attached homes were an ideal solution to the housing challenges created by rapidly increasing populations. Many of these historic homes still stand, while modern townhouses have adapted to accommodate suburban and small-town lifestyles as well.

High Style, Low Maintenance

Today, townhouses stand out for their accessible pricing and efficient use of space. With many of the sought-after features of a single-family home, such as open floor plans, attached garages and private outdoor spaces, townhouses offer style and comfort without compromising function. Perhaps best of all, exterior maintenance, like lawn mowing and landscaping, is usually included in monthly fees.

Less Upkeep, More Community

With fewer chores to manage, homeowners can spend more time socializing with neighbors and enjoying the sense of community that often comes with townhouse living. It's a lifestyle that invites interaction — whether through shared spaces or by simply being part of a neighborhood that feels more connected by design.

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Summer Party Ideas

Consider these seasonal gathering themes for a one-of-a-kind summer bash.

Get your pets in on the fun by hosting a **dog party**. Round up your friends and their pups for a playful afternoon featuring toys, games, a pool or sprinkler for dogs to play and cool down, and yummy treats for people and pooches.

Enjoy the nostalgia of a drive-in with an **outdoor film fest**. Set up a screen and projector to display a timeless favorite under the stars. Pop some popcorn, lay out comfy blankets and relax while you enjoy the movie.

Opt for a classic summer celebration with a **potluck**. Invite guests to bring their favorite summer staples, such as watermelon, salad, burgers, or frozen treats. Add some fun lawn games like badminton, cornhole or giant Jenga to help work up an appetite.

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Home Decluttering Myths

Decluttering your house can get complicated, especially if you think there's only one right way to do it. Consider these myths debunked.

Myth: I'll use it someday.

When faced with the task of paring down household items, many people worry that what they throw out might be needed someday. If you struggle with keeping something, think about the last time you used it. If it's been sitting in a closet or cupboard for over a year, it's likely you won't actually miss it. Remember this common decluttering rule — if you're able to replace an item in 20 minutes for under \$20, you're safe to toss it.

Myth: Home decluttering is one size fits all.

You and your home are one of a kind, so there's no reason your minimizing and simplifying process should be any different. If you feel overwhelmed by the thought of decluttering your entire house in less than a week, try tackling one room or even one drawer at a time. Finding a process that works for you will encourage you to stay motivated and stick with the project.

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Vinyl Revival: Clean Your Siding Like a Pro

Vinyl siding is truly the unsung hero of home exteriors — durable, affordable and easy to maintain. With proper cleaning, it can stay looking sharp for years, raising curb appeal and boosting resale value along the way.

To tackle this big job, start small. Work in sections, cleaning from top to bottom with a soft cloth or brush and a garden hose to wash away the grime. Steer clear of wire brushes and abrasive cleaners. For greasy smudges, mix a solution of water and dishwashing liquid, then wipe and rinse.

If washing siding isn't your idea of a weekend well spent, consider hiring professionals who can get the job done quickly and will leave your home's exterior sparkling clean.

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S'mores Pie

Ingredients:

12 graham crackers
2 Tbsp. granulated sugar
½ cup butter, melted
2 cups hazelnut chocolate spread
1 (8 oz.) container Mascarpone cheese, room temperature
¼ tsp. salt
1 cup heavy whipping cream
2 cups mini marshmallows
Chocolate syrup

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° F. In a food processor, pulse graham crackers and sugar until finely ground. Add butter and pulse until combined. Press



completely.



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Bea hazelnut spread, Mascarpone and salt until fluffy. In a separate bowl, beat whipping cream on high until stiff peaks form. Fold whipped cream into hazelnut filling. Gently spread over pie crust, cover and refrigerate for 4 hours. Sprinkle marshmallows over top of chilled pie. Broil for 1–2 minutes on top rack until golden. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Drizzle with chocolate syrup before serving.

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