



Welcome to

the Home Page

...Because Your Move Matters!!!



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Curb Appeal Makeovers

By J. A. Young



Your front yard landscaping is what will greet family, friends—and prospective buyers. Enhancing its appearance for great curb appeal is easier than you think and always begins with a retinue of window washing, weed pulling and the removal of unnecessary debris. Positive makeovers can be accomplished to fit any budget and the work you do may reap the reward of a successful sale or the knowledge that your home is the prettiest on the block!

Look at the front of your home with a critical eye and make some important decisions to repair, replace, mask, remove, or add to give the structure more visual appeal. A sagging awning might be replaced with freshly painted

shutters. A front door might be painted or enhanced with the addition of an attractive brass door knocker or a dramatic sconce beside it. Giving the exterior a fresh coat of paint is a very dramatic enhancement.

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The porch is an important area to improve. Apply a fresh coat of paint to the railings or install a new one. Repair any chips or dings in the steps. Add a new lighting feature along with a few strategically placed container plants to give your porch a refreshing change. Aim for the less-is-more concept and avoid clutter at all costs.

A tidy, well maintained front yard should be a primary goal. A landscape that is too busy will simply say to prospective buyers that they will have their work cut out for them should they buy. Be sure there is a clean path to the front door. Repair any cracks or perhaps lay a more attractive walkway of paving or flat stone. The lawn should be healthy and weed free.

Prune trees so that no branches unnecessarily detract from a view of the home. Reshape shrubs that mask your home, or remove them altogether and replace them with a terraced garden or a layered landscape of attractive plants—include many types to guarantee year-round interest or at least enough color to last throughout the growing season.

When it comes to plants and botanical features, much will depend on taste, but if you stick with healthy varieties and employ features that are not extremely demanding, you will meet with positive reactions from potential buyers.



Autumn Décor Accents

By J. A. Young



Bringing the autumn indoors is a way to transform your décor with both subtlety and a richness of color and warmth. Here are a few ways you can add fall accents to your home.

Get gourds! Not just the requisite pumpkin for the porch, but several small to large ornamental gourds to be used as a dining room table centerpiece, as a coffee table prop and even to place here and there on the book shelves. Ornamental gourds come in many sizes and shapes and their appeal is great during the harvest season.

New Home Warranties

By Jaye Lewis



For most people, the purchase of their new home will be the most significant investment that they will make in their lifetime. A home warranty acts as a safety net should anything go wrong.

For new home buyers, state law and state building requirements provide four forms of new-home protection:

Implied Warranties: This requires builders to construct homes that are “reasonably fit” for use as housing. It must be constructed in a “good and workmanlike” manner, and it must be “habitable.” These are vague and debatable standards that are little more than a starting point.

Add a wreath to the door abundant with fall blooms dried and interspersed on a grapevine. Consider hydrangea, yarrow and goldenrod for a warm welcome into your home. Also, place bouquets of dried flower arrangements throughout your home—each with fall colors for effect.

For a great table centerpiece find an old copper tub and fill it with water. Then add some novelty candles that float—apple-shaped and scented (available at large chain craft stores) and scatter some autumn leaves around its base for accent. Add other candles around the house scented with fall fragrances like nutmeg and spice.

Go shopping at antique stores or flea markets for fabric in gold, yellows, oranges, browns and reds. Make new curtains or an autumn tablecloth. Flea markets are great places to find old quilts in fall colors—even if it’s not in great condition, it can be used for various autumn crafts.

Imposed Warranties: These are standards that are imposed by the state government, that bring a house up to state code. For instance, a water pipe coming into the house must be a certain size, and it must be buried at a certain depth to prevent it from freezing. If a building inspector sees that it has been done wrong, the builder must correct things before the home can be occupied.

Express Warranties: These are written promises from the builders that spell out construction standards. Usually these warranties are limited so that the builder can restrict his potential liability.

Product Warranties: Coming from manufacturers, not builders, these warranties cover dishwashers, garbage disposals, and other household appliances that come with the house. This gives the buyer some replacement or repair protection should the new dishwasher flood the kitchen floor.

The problem with these warranties is that they may not be reliable should any party refuse to cooperate. A new home warranty is the best guarantee that you will be covered should problems occur. The independent, separate warranty firm will see that repairs are completed.

A typical 10-year policy covers three main areas:

- Defects in workmanship and materials are covered in the first year. If there is a dispute between the builder and the homeowner, however, warranty plans often require settlement through arbitration.
- Wiring, piping, heating, and air-conditioning are covered in the first and second years.

- Structural problems are covered for all 10 years. This includes shifting foundations, a leaky roof, or a fallen chimney.

Independent warranty coverage is a good investment, whether provided by the builder or purchased by the homeowner. This type of insurance will give you peace of mind, so that you can truly enjoy your new home.

Organize Your Home

Gail Kavanagh



Running out of room? Is the clutter getting out of hand? Time to tackle the problem with clever organizers that will whisk the clutter out of sight and make your home livable again.

Modern organizer solutions are simple and stylish. A neat

stack of storage boxes in a corner of the room, the bottom of a closet or under the bed are far better than a bulging closet that ejects its contents every time you open the door.

Use large, easy to assemble cardboard boxes to store out of season items such as ice skates and beach gear. You can buy them in various colors and finishes to tone with your décor and they will provide a simple organizing solution that also looks good in your home.

Maximize the space under the beds with under bed storage drawers and boxes. These are low wide organizers that take care of out of season clothing and bedding and free up room in your closets for the stuff you are using right now. If you have a lot of items to store, get bags that shrink tight around the items when the air is sucked out. With this method you can store twice as much under the bed.

Is your living area awash with magazines and pictures? Try hanging a magazine rack on your wall. You can get

these with roomy pockets that will also take care of more bulky items, such as board games, crafts and remotes.

Shoes that gather at the entrance of your home can look unsightly when they are spread over the floor. For a large entrance hall, a shoe cubby with slots for individual shoes will provide a stylish solution. You can buy shoe cubbies with doors to close over the shoes and keep them out of sight.

Your entrance hall can provide a way to keep everyone organized as they leave and enter the house. A message board and stack of post-it notes near the door is a great way to keep track of teens. Get them to write a short note and stick it to the message board with the estimated time of their return. Keep other important information, such as the expected arrival of tradesmen or deliveries, on the message board so you don't forget as you are leaving. Pin bills to be paid to the message board as a reminder when you are going out.

Keep a wooden chest for schoolbags, sports equipment or any other items that usually have to be searched for when leaving the house. When you have finished with your library books or hired DVDs, place them on a shelf or in a basket near the entrance so you don't forget to return them on time.

Keep a calendar near the entrance to mark off important dates, and make sure you mark birthdays and anniversaries at least a week ahead so you have time to buy a present.

Getting organized in your home will not only free up more space for your general enjoyment, it will also give you more time to do the things you really enjoy.



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Tile Ideas for Every Room

(ARA) - Ever thought about tile for the dining room, bedroom, mudroom or garage? Consider a tile wainscot in the dining room. It is hygienic and can withstand knocks from chairs. For a formal style, Natucer offers a tile with the look of brocade.

Tile is an especially good choice for a child's room. It is allergen free and glazed tile will not stain. Writing on the walls isn't an issue; tile cleans with hot water and never needs re-painting.

Porcelanosa's wood inspired ceramic tile is perfect for areas prone to moisture; glazed tile won't warp or discolor. Because tile is chemically inert, mold and mildew won't grow on it.

Some tile is rated to withstand the weight of a car making it perfect for the garage. Oil will wipe off of glazed tile. The trick is to choose a dark grout. For more information about tile from Spain, visit www.spaintiles.info or call (305) 446-4387.