

Myriad of home improvement projects perfect for autumn

Improving our homes, from renovating to remodeling to interior designing, is quickly becoming a great American pastime. Home ownership has always been desirable. However, today, young professional singles, not just young families, are discovering the many benefits and joys of owning a home.

The addition of this new group has broadened the homeowners market, creating a growing demand for goods and services related to home care.

People of all ages are spackling, painting, remodeling, furnishing, roofing, tiling, designing and redesigning their homes not just out of obligation, but because it's enjoyable!

Home improvement has become a hobby, while remaining an investment.

With the high cost of homes today, maintaining a home is a necessary step in protecting that investment. Americans are keenly aware that it is not as easy to purchase a home today as it was, say, 10 years ago. Therefore, they are spending more time and money to maintain their present homes.

Fall is the perfect time to start home improvement projects. Now that the lazy days of summer have passed, it's time for new undertakings. A good way to get started is to make a checklist of projects that are pending.

Begin first with major projects — those that will take more research, time and money. Total renovations, exterior house painting, new siding or such additions as a room, patio, pool or tennis court fall into this category.

Research the people who are doing the work for you, as well as the products that they use. Make sure that deadlines, costs, materials and procedures are spelled out before you make any firm commitments.

With today's high cost of fuel, conserving heat by employing energy-saving devices should be uppermost in every homeowner's mind. Installing new windows and doors can help cut down on heat loss, which is sure to ease your fuel bills.

Even if your home doesn't require major repairs, a little face-lift can never hurt. Wallcoverings and paint are both inexpensive tools that can produce some very creative results.

Covering one wall in a room with wallpaper can add just the right amount of color, as well as provide a theme. Painting the moldings in a room a different color from the walls can add that finished touch with a relatively small amount of work.

Coordinating wallcoverings with bed linens and paint can really pull a room together.

Small details such as fixtures, tiles and special moldings go a long way in creating a certain mood.

Caring for your home produces satisfying results; it's a wonderful way to turn your creativity loose, and a smart way to protect your investment.

New sheets, paint makes colorful room

Making up your mind about what colors to paint your bedroom can be as easy as making your bed! Today's pretty, coordinated bed linens are loaded with colors that look as good on your walls as they do on your bed.

The best part is that when blended by a qualified paint dealer, paints can be mixed to match any shade of color desired.

Complementary colors

Designing your bedroom to showcase bed linen means using paint to complement the colors and enhance the motif of the sheets. The room pictured features sheets on which misty green forms the background for cream colored flowers.

Each flower contains a dab of peach in its center. The walls of the room are painted peach, the ceiling, window frames and floor molding are painted cream, and the floor is diagonally striped with each color.

To help you capture the colorful mood of your favorite linen, the National Paint and Coatings Association offers the following design ideas for several different types of patterns.

Themed sheets — Red lacquer colored sheets with a gold bamboo shoot pattern, a bright American Indian design, and rainbow sheets for children — each of these designs revolves around a theme that can be amplified with paint.

Go dramatic with the Oriental pattern by painting the door and all the molding with red high gloss acrylic. Then, stencil golden bamboo shoots around the ceiling, mirror and door frame.

Try choosing a subtle color from the American Indian design and use it to paint the wall behind the bed. Use textured paint for a "Sante Fe" look. Then, select a portion of the design and stencil it around the wall to frame the bed.

Brighten your child's room with the bright primary colors of the rainbow on furniture, window frames and closet doors.

Solids — Light blue, red, white; peach and brown; red, yellow and brown. Mixing and matching solid colored sheets and comforters yields a plentiful supply of painting ideas!

Create your own ceiling molding with thin, closely spaced strips of each sheet color. Or, combine the colors into a painted headboard or chest of drawers.

Another idea is to paint either the ceiling or the floor with one of the colors.

Florals — Each floral design presents several decorating opportunities, depending on the intensity of the background color and the number of shades used. Bring out the colors of the flowers by painting the walls to match.

With deeply shaded multi-colored sheets you can create a romantic hideaway by echoing the dark background color on the walls, stenciling the flower over the bed or in the center of the ceiling, and using the other colors for accents around the room.

Or, you might want to choose one of the subtler colors on the walls and the deep colors on molding and trim.

Drama for kids

Drama lessons for children between the ages of 9-14 are being added to the curriculum of the Jill Evans School of Dance. Vera MacDonald, who has just returned from 2 years in Switzerland, is well known in Georgetown for her expertise and extensive knowledge in theatre.

She will incorporate voice, movement, improvisation, make-up etc., culminating in active theatre participation at the end of the course.

Classes will be limited, so for further information phone 877-1187.

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