

Home & Garden 2019



Swing into spring

5 ideas for updating your space

(Family Features) While spring naturally means it's time for a refresh for many homeowners, it doesn't mean you're limited only to a cleaning party. Take advantage of the season by using it as an opportunity to upgrade different areas of your home for reasons ranging from energy efficiency and convenience to ease of living and safety.

With increasing technology for smart home devices and ever-evolving design styles, upgrading your home can be nearly anything you make of it. These ideas include ways that you can add organization, revolutionize your home tech, increase energy efficiency, enhance security and more.

Find more ways to enhance your space this spring at eLivingToday.com.

Elegant, functional shelving

Open shelving can add character, design and attractive storage to your home. For example, ClosetMaid's

Ventilated Shelving exhibits simple elegance and is both an aesthetically pleasing way to showcase your favorite things and functional enough to keep linens fresh in the closet or hold clutter at bay by the front door. Made from solid wood and epoxy-coated steel, these shelves are easy to install, durable and can complement nearly any room. Learn more at closetmaid.com.

Revolutionize your home

Take your smart home setup to the next level with assistance from a product like the Google Home Hub. Its 7-inch touch screen and built-in Google Assistant technology answers your questions, shows you the weather and more using voice recognition software. The virtual assistant is available at retailers like Office Depot or OfficeMax, which offer Workonomy Tech Services to install smart home devices for added convenience. It also works with

other smart hubs for fluid integration between all your at-home tech devices. Find more information at officedepot.com. Content courtesy of Office Depot.

Natural light, fresh air

Add natural light and fresh air to your home with an option like Velux No Leak Solar Powered Fresh Air Skylights featuring pre-installed light filtering or light blocking shades in more than 80 colors. The skylights use a solar panel to capture daylight and recharge a battery-operated control system. They can also be opened and closed via remote control or smartphone app, and a rain sensor closes the skylights during inclement weather. Find more information at whyskylights.com.

A front door fixer upper

Anytime is a good time to make sure your home is safe, particularly at what's often the main point of entry - your front door. This spring is an ideal

time to keep out unwanted guests with a door that's sturdy and draft-resistant while also providing an aesthetic touch for enhanced curb appeal. When choosing a door that's right for your home, focus on options that include a strong deadbolt and thick frame for peace of mind.

Smart home safety

With safety typically representing a top priority for most homeowners, taking advantage of smart technology can be one way to improve your feelings of safety and comfort in your home. A solution like a smart lock on the main entryway to your house can add security while also ensuring you're never locked out of your own home. With options that can pair with apps on your smartphone or feature keyless entry via unique numerical passwords, you can marry convenience with safety.

Patio perfect



Now that warmer weather is here, it's time to get outside and get your patio ready for morning coffee, solo time with a book or a big dinner with friends and family. Keep reading for more tips on creating the perfect outdoor space to fit your needs and your budget.

Furniture

After a long winter outdoors, you may need to freshen up your furniture a bit. First, try cleaning it. Try a mix of 2 cups of white vinegar to 2 tablespoons of dish soap. Spot test it first to make sure the solution doesn't ruin any fab-

rics or finishes. If you're good to go, work it into the hard surfaces with a stiff-bristled brush and rinse well. You can also use this solution on cushions and umbrellas (again, spot test first) with a softer brush.

If a good wash doesn't work, may-

be it's time for a fresh coat of paint. Take your cleaned furniture to an open, well-ventilated space and opt for an outdoor spray paint that's appropriate to your furniture's material. If you're painting metal furniture, look for a paint that inhibits rust. For plastic, make sure the paint you pick will adhere to plastics. While matte finishes are in, glossy finishes are easier to clean. Your local home store offers a variety of paints, colors and finishes to choose from.

Made in the shade

Throw the best kind of shade — the kind you can sip a lovely beverage under. Look beyond the umbrella at sunsails, awnings, canopies and more. Some more complex installs, like a retractable awning, may require professional installation. But there are easier solutions you can do yourself, like a sail or a canopy. Just make sure your shady solution is securely fastened so it doesn't blow away in a summer storm.

Pick a peck of pots

Get creative with containers, textures and blooms in your patio space. Choose plants with leaves and blooms that complement the colors of your furniture and cushions.

If your thumb is a lighter shade of green, ask the pros at your garden center to help you pick easy-care plants that can stand up to the weather in your area.

Help save the bees



Bees produce more than tasty, sweet honey. We owe most of our food to the hard work of one of the species of apis. Seventy out of the top 100 human food crops, about 90 percent of the world's nutrition, are pollinated by bees, Greenpeace says. But bees are in crisis.

Colony collapse disorder occurs when most of a colony's worker bees disappear, causing the colony to slowly die off. CCD ran rampant starting in the mid-2000s, when beekeepers began reporting up to a 90 percent loss of their hives. The disorder has scaled off somewhat, but bees are also under attack from pesticides, global warming, habitat loss and diseases.

How you can help

Start by looking at what pesticides you use

and opting, if possible, for organic solutions that don't harm bees. Then plan some plantings. When choosing new spring color for your beds, ask your nursery worker to point you toward flowering plants that bees like and that are native to your area, requiring less chemical care than other varieties.

Build a bee house

Build or buy bee houses for your garden. North America is home to more than 4,000 native bee species — honey bees were imported from Europe in the 1600s — and most of those don't live in hives, the National Wildlife Federation says. Instead, they live in small nests carved into soil or wood. And, bonus, they rarely sting. Talk to your local nursery or agriculture extension agent about what bees live in your area and how to create the best habitat for them.

Don't forget the water

Bees and other pollinators need water, too. Add a water feature to your garden. It can be as simple as a bird bath you regularly refresh. Add rocks or pebbles that stick out above the water line to give bees and other insects a safe place to land. Dump the water every few days to kill any mosquito larvae, and stay away from chemicals.

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Window treatments that work



There are a wide range of window treatments available today, including blinds, draperies, valances and shades. With more than 9,000 unique patterns and colors, plus countless more textures and materials available, a JCPenney Decorating Consultant can recommend window treatments that are attractive, well-constructed and suited to transform nearly any window into a functional and inspirational view.

Style

Many window treatments serve dual purposes, such as adding visual beauty while controlling light flow, which can greatly impact the overall feel of the room. Treatments with a horizontal orientation create a casual feel, while a vertical orientation adds height and stature. Treatments with patterns or diagonal lines draw attention to the window, but they can be distracting if not defined by another style element.

Color

Warm colors like reds and oranges can be used to make a room feel cozier, while greens and blues can make a room feel cooler. Colors that contrast with your walls can be used to fill the space in a room while other colors can be selected to blend with the walls. The amount of natural light in a room also plays into color selection, as changing light alters the colors' appearance throughout the day.

Texture

The material can also factor into the overall look and feel of the room, ranging from more formal to more casual. Patterns or shapes can create depth and invoke a feeling of formality or fun.

Cords

New safety standards dictate that the majority of window treatments be cordless or have short cords. However, depending on the placement of the window covering

or your personal needs, you may require special accommodations that are available through custom orders. A certified window treatment expert can help you determine what cord style best meets your needs and order custom treatments with the features you require.

Fit to the room

Symmetry and balance are important considerations. Heavy treatments can overpower a space, while treatments that are too light can blend in or get lost. Simple treatments are typically used in smaller rooms, while more ornate treatments are best for larger spaces. Put simply, you'll need to decide whether you want the window treatments to be a focal point or accent.

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Plant local



Native planting means choosing blooms and bushes that grow in your area on their own.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says native plantings are already adapted to your climate and soil conditions and provide important nectar, pollen and seeds to native fauna.

They do not require fertilizers, need fewer pesticides, are less thirsty and can prevent erosion, may not require mowing, and promote biodiversity.

Know your zone

The first step to native planting is to know your planting zone. The USDA maintains the map, which is available online. Before you leave for your local nursery or garden store, look up your address on the map and determine your plant hardiness zone.

Location, location, location

Look around your yard. Observe the places where you want to plant and how many hours of sun and shade those spots get.

Does water pool there? Is it dry? What's the soil like? Is it close to your house or driveway? What native plants

are around you? What's your budget? These are all questions the plant experts at your local garden store will ask.

Be patient

Remember, this is a marathon. Native plants may take a year or so to get established and grow into their new habitat, the USDA warns. When you plant, you'll also need to leave room for the plants to grow and propagate.

If the gaps in your garden are killing you, ask your garden center about potted plants or small garden sculptures you can easily move to fill in.

Controlling weeds and invasive species

While you're at the nursery center, talk to the experts there about weed control and invasive species to look for. Especially if you're reusing beds that were planted with invasive species before, you may have your hands full for a couple of years. Weed control techniques to consider are pulling them by hand, using environmentally friendly mulches to suppress weeds among young plants, and the careful use of herbicides.

Keeping your cool

Warm breezes mean the return of the air conditioning season is right around the corner.

Make sure your unit is ready to keep you cool with a little preventive maintenance. Here are some tips from the DIY Network on how to keep your HVAC in its best shape.

A good cleaning

Give your outside unit a good cleaning before the full heat of summer hits.

Clear away any debris, like the last of winter's dead leaves, from inside and outside the unit. Remove the fan cage and give the inside and outside of the fins on the walls of the unit a gentle spray with a hose. If they're especially dirty, hit the home improvement center for a spray cleaner just for HVAC units. While you're cleaning, look for bent fins and straighten them with a fin straightening tool or a butter knife. Be gentle, though; you don't want to damage the tubing.

Inside maintenance

For the inside unit, remove the panel to expose the condenser inside. Dust the coil with a soft brush, then use a no-rinse condenser cleaner spray from the home improvement store to clean it. Clean the drip pan with soap and hot water, then dump a 50-50 solution of water and bleach down the pan to inhibit algae growth.

Hiring a pro

If any of this sounds like hard work, or if you have a clog or a discover a problem with your HVAC, turn to a pro. Some heating and air companies may even offer a maintenance contract where they drop by on a schedule. Look for a heating and air service with good recommendations. As with any contractor, also check to make sure their licenses and insurance are up to date and get any estimates and contracts in writing.

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Home safe home

(Family Features) Some home upgrades are aesthetic, and some are for function. These ideas, all with better home safety in mind, show there's no reason you can't have both.

If you tend to think of home safety in strictly functional terms, you may be relieved to know you don't have to abandon your designer sensibilities when it comes to improving your home's overall safety. In fact, these tips from the decorating experts at JCPenney show just how easy it can be to make safe look sensational.

Appliances

Outdated appliances aren't just an eyesore and drain on your home's energy resources; they can actually be dangerous. Over time, electrical components and other mechanical functions can wear down, which may result in a higher risk of fire or water damage. A new suite of appliances can give a tired kitchen an instant facelift, and with the wide range of options available, you can create just about any look you desire, from an ultra-modern sleek motif to a farm-style design that blends modern convenience with yesteryear charm.

If replacing your home appliances isn't in the budget, it's important to ensure they're being properly maintained. This applies to the kitchen, of course, but also other appliances throughout the house, such as the climate control system, water heater and water filtration system. Regularly cleaning and assessing operations can help you keep on top of potential concerns. Also keep up on regular service schedules so an expert can evaluate problems that may not be immediately apparent and ensure your appliances are operating at peak efficiency.

Window treatments

Windows, and more particularly window treatments, can often play a significant role in a room's ambiance. Custom-made drapery and other window treatments are ideal for giving any living space a personal feel. However, upgrading your window treatments isn't just about creating a delightful new space. Cords on window treatments pose a significant risk, especially in homes with small children and pets who may become tangled in the cords.

A new window covering safety standard by the American National Standards Institute requires a vast majority of window covering products sold in the United States to be cordless or have inaccessible or short cords. By early 2019, corded window coverings will only be available on custom-order products, as corded products are still needed by a wide range of consumers, including the elderly and those with disabilities, those short in stature and those with windows in hard-to-reach locations.

To ensure your window treatments meet both your safety and functional needs, it's a good idea to work with a certified window treatment expert who can meet in your home to find the perfect window treatments to complement your style, decor and budget. From energy-efficient shades and cordless shutters to blackout draperies, privacy blinds and decorative hardware, a JCPenney Decorating Consultant can work one-on-one with you to bring your vision to light. For added peace of mind, their professionally installed window treatments include a one-year guarantee.

Doors

An attractive, inviting door is an



important element of your home's exterior facade, but it's also an important safety feature. For the door itself, a solid wood door is both aesthetically pleasing and functionally sound, but if your budget can stand it, steel is even better. Avoid pretty window panes that can be easily broken, giving access to the locks. Be sure the frame is in good order, as well, as even the sturdiest door can be forced off a weak, rotted or poorly installed frame.

A deadbolt that extends at least an inch into the doorframe is a basic must. It's also a good idea to forgo the push-button knobs and opt instead for a more secure keyed doorknob, which is more difficult for an intruder to manipulate. Also remember the same principals apply to every entry point to the house, not just the front door.

Start planning upgrades to your home's safety at jcpenny.com.

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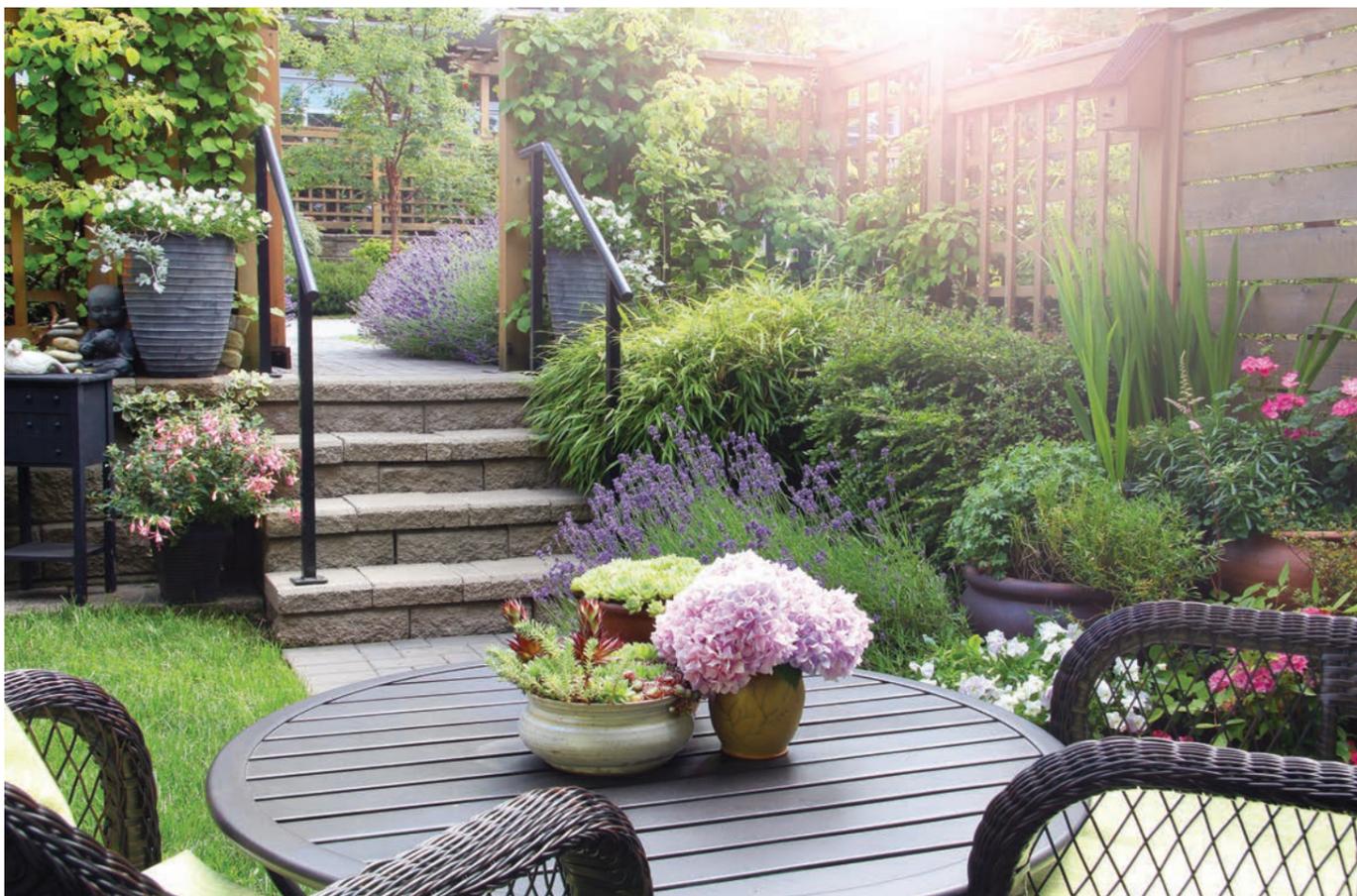
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The Small Garden



Even if you don't have a large yard or green space to work with, you can still have a beautiful outdoor space to work out your green thumb. Here are some hints for making the most of your little slice of the great outdoors.

Think vertical

Just like in cities, the quickest way to get more space may be to go up. Line a fence or wall with artfully placed flower boxes and alternate color and greenery. Choose plants for leafy texture as well as blossoms, and remember to take into account the amount of sun your space gets. Not into a lot of elbow grease outdoors? Try shelves of succulents in a variety of colors and pots.

Take advantage of vines

You don't need a lot of room for flowering (or even fruiting) vines to grow. Instead, arrange them along shaped trellises or cages and take advantage of their natural propensity to spread. Keep the vines pruned to keep them from taking over.

Creative containers

Keep in mind that your containers will need to drain, be mobile and stand up to the elements. Once that's covered, you can make almost anything into a flower pot with a little work. Get creative and recycle (clean) tin cans and interesting containers. A lot of local garden centers and pottery shops may also offer up pretty pots at great prices.

Pair it up

If you're planting edible plants, such as fruit trees, pair them up, if needed, so they bear fruit. Talk to the experts at your garden center about varieties that need a mate and those that are self-pollinating. Many fruit trees are created to grow on patios, including apples, citrus, peaches and more.

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Clever kitchen upgrades

Fresh colors and textures for a functional kitchen style

(Family Features) For avid cooks, seasoned hosts and busy families, the kitchen is likely the center of daily life and a place where both form and function are of the utmost importance.

This high-traffic space generally influences the design of the rest of the house, especially if the home has more of an open-concept layout. The colors and materials used in the kitchen normally set the tone for the rest of the home.

When it comes to considerations like finish and materials, kitchen cabinetry trends are shifting toward colored cabinetry and a mixture of exposed textures and materials.

Colorful allure

White kitchen cabinets have dominated the market for years; white is constant, safe and classic. While white kitchens are likely to remain a popular option for homeowners, buying trends are showing a shift in painted cabinetry design from classic white to eye-catching colors.

Natural colors, burnt orange, shades of gray, blue hues and green tones are likely to be the leaders in painted cabinetry colors in 2019, and all are offered through an option like Wellborn's ColorInspire program.

For those with a visionary and creative approach to design, the blue tones for cabinetry reach atmospheric wisps of colors and capture the unique space between technology and spirituality. The unbridled adventurer may use burnt orange to soak in the blue of endless horizon and the subtle earthy colors of the high plains and desert.

For the naturalist, green earthy



tones can bring the wonder of the world into your kitchen. For the cozy home-body, dark warm tones of gray on cabinetry add a rich and modern scope that spans space and time.

Trends in texture

From classic to modern and from farmhouse to high-tech modernistic styling, designers work to make surfaces make a statement. With cabinetry, there's no shortage of options: matte and glossy, dark and light, with and without handles.

Technology has played a major role in the improved quality of laminates in

the kitchen; many of today's laminate options have a more realistic appearance and texture than their ancestors. For a more authentic wood look, an option like Wellborn Cabinet's Decorative Laminate Veneer Door Collection is filled with color choices in a range of materials spanning embossed and textured melamine, acrylic, laminates, metal and more.

Another option is cabinetry featuring timber with exposed grain for a balance between embracing nature and exuding sophistication. This trend celebrates imperfections and allows

you to bring nature into your home. Defined or rustic woods are made from materials such as walnut, oak and cherry. For nature enthusiasts or those seeking the rustic farmhouse style, you can find beautiful organic finishes in Wellborn's Aspire Full Access Frameless line. The standout feature is heavy graining. Hand sanding, along with hand-rubbed finishes, provide a quality product with varied textures that minimizes the need for a lot of color.

Explore more trendy looks for your new kitchen at Wellborn.com.

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Hiring an exterior painter

All the sprucing up in the yard may make you turn a critical eye to the exterior of your home.

While you can paint the outside of your home yourself, most homeowners choose to hire a contractor for this big job. Here are some tips for picking a pro from Consumer Reports.

Set up a meeting

Ask friends, family and the local paint store for recommendations, then set up a meeting time with each contractor. He or she will want to walk around your home and take a close look at all the surfaces to provide a detailed estimate. Be wary of short visits. Ask how big the contractor's crew is and how much experience they have.

Get it in writing

Each contractor should provide you with a written estimate that includes a complete breakdown of costs, including

labor and supplies. Look for the brand of paint they plan to use, number of coats and surface prep work that must be done, like replacing rotten wood. Once you pick a contractor, they also should provide you with a written contract. The contract should include everything in the estimate, plus a clear outline of what is and is not included in the work. You also can ask for a guarantee of the work; your paint may offer a warranty, but it probably doesn't include labor.

Check references and credentials

Talk to past clients and, if you can, look at their work from several years ago to see how well it holds up. Also check more recent projects to see the skills of the current crew. Make sure each contractor is up to date with any local or state licenses and that they have their own insurance.



Give your space a spring refresh

Start with upgrades to your home's design features

(Family Features) The spring season is typically a time when people are motivated to start fresh. With reorganization often top of mind, it is also a time when many homeowners look for ways to update their homes with improvements that can increase aesthetics and functionality.

From small changes to large-scale projects, these home design ideas from the experts at Dutch Boy paints are all about adding fresh appeal to your living space.

Reorganize and reimagine

Sometimes a space doesn't require much investment at all, you just need a change of perspective. Reorganizing a room for better flow and eliminating unnecessary clutter can give it a brand-new, updated feel. Consider how adjusting the furniture placement might improve the space, whether it opens up a better walkway or lets in more light. Upgrades are often about adding, but don't be afraid to take away unnecessary furniture that crowds the space. Also give attention to organization and stash away items that make the room appear untidy or uninviting.

Artwork overhaul

Furniture and architectural elements may factor heavily into a room's ambiance, but it's often the

decorative details that tell a space's true story. If you like the major features of a room but have grown bored with its overall look and feel, swapping out the artwork may be just the solution. One notable benefit of this approach is that artwork is available at virtually every price point, making it easy to stay within your budget. From DIY pieces to gallery-quality hangings, there are nearly countless ways to achieve the look you desire.

Color correction and odor protection

Changing the wall color is often a style-driven decision. However, when it comes to eliminating stains and odors, paint can also be a functional solution that saves on heavy-duty renovating. For example, Dutch Boy Forever Paint and Primer, available exclusively at Menards, covers old stains, prevents new ones and helps knock back the odors that are particularly pungent during the winter months when everyone is cooped up indoors. The paint features Arm & Hammer Odor Eliminating technology, making it ideal for high-traffic areas and homeowners with pets and kids. Sold in easy-to-use plastic twist-and-pour containers, it offers an easy-to-use alternative to traditional metal cans. Learn more at DutchBoy.com.

Abstract accents

Visually interesting pieces can help breathe new life into a ho-hum space, and making this kind of improvement can be as quick and low-budget as a trip to the garage or attic. Repurposing items in unexpected ways can bring vibrant character to a room. For example, a beloved but discarded old drum makes for a whimsical occasional table filled with memories and nostalgia. Ladders make for attractive bookshelves, or you can use brackets to mount old hardcover books on the wall as quirky, floating shelving. You can even take an obscure item like a bike wheel and convert it into a wall clock.

Open spaces

Although it should never be done without careful consideration of the impact on your home's value, knocking out a wall can substantially improve your home's function and appeal. For example, if you have a home with separate dining and kitchen areas, removing the separating wall can create a welcoming space the whole family can enjoy. Opening up a high-use area like the kitchen is a popular renovation choice for all types of homeowners, from those who need to supervise homework while making dinner to others who regularly entertain at home. If knocking out an entire wall isn't an option, try

simply making your home "feel" like it flows better from room to room with complementary color palettes that help visually open the space.

Tone-on-Tone Stenciling

Stencils can be a simple way to create a visually rich pattern on an accent wall. Try using a downloadable stencil and two soft shades or two sheens of the same color for a subtle statement.

Supplies:

- Clean, damp cloth
- Drop cloth
- Painter's tape
- Dutch Boy paint (3 colors)
- Paint tray
- Liners

- Angled paintbrush
- Woven roller covers
- Roller frame
- Tape measure
- Pencil Level

- Stencil (visit DutchBoy.com to download and print)
- Mini foam roller cover and roller frame

Wipe wall with clean, damp cloth to prepare painting surface.

Lay down drop cloth to protect floors; use painter's tape to cover trim, molding, ceiling and any adjacent walls. Prepare paint by adding base color to lined paint tray.

Using angled brush, apply base color just inside taped areas then paint remaining area with woven roller; remove painter's tape while paint is still damp; allow paint to dry 24 hours.

Use tape measure to find center of wall and lightly mark with pencil; center stencil over pencil mark; use level to ensure stencil is straight; secure stencil in place with painter's tape.

Using clean liner, add second color to paint tray. Using mini foam roller, apply second color over stencil; carefully lift stencil after paint application; wipe down stencil after each use.

Line up stencil with previously painted design; repeat until adjacent walls, ceiling and baseboard have been reached.

Allow paint to dry, following suggested drying time on can label.



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Home decor 101

Decorating with bold colors



(Family Features) From dark and moody to vibrant and bold, colorful design is gaining favor among homeowners ditching safe, neutral palettes to create more daring, dramatic spaces.

Decorating with deeply saturated colors can be intimidating. Explore these ideas to welcome more bold colors into your home and create inviting spaces for living and entertaining.

Walls of color

Say goodbye to beige and embrace the bold color trend by enhancing walls with hues that make a statement. The trick is to avoid making colors so loud that the space loses its stylish appeal. Bold doesn't necessarily mean bright, so look for muted variations of the shades you prefer. Also remember that when it comes to design, there is such a thing as too much. If painting all the walls in a space will close it in or make it feel lost in the dark, try adding color in more subtle ways, such as an accent wall (or two), or painting the ceiling as your accent. Another option for implementing vibrant wall color: stick to smaller rooms, where the bold look is less likely to be overwhelming.

Illuminate color with natural light

When decorating with statement colors, remember that lighting can make a significant difference in the overall aesthetic. In addition to lighting fixtures, be sure to incorporate plenty of natural light to bring out the best in those bold hues.

To bring natural light deeper into the space, consider skylights as an option with a solution such as Velux No Leak Solar Powered Fresh Air Skylights, which can bathe the space in natural light and open to bring in fresh air. Another smart way to capture natural light is by installing an option like Sun Tunnel skylights. With their low-profile design, they create a sleek appearance, and installation is also quick and easy. Learn more at whyskylights.com.

Bold furnishings

An often overlooked but essential component of design is the furniture. Creating a colorful, inviting room doesn't stop with the walls and floors; what's in the room can bring the colors to life. Think of the space and all its contents, not just the architectural components, as your canvas for creating the space you envision. If you're hesitant to invest in a pricy couch in a trendy hue, a compromise might come in the form of a richly colored accent table or chair.

Creative cabinetry

Traditional wood grain cabinetry sometimes gives way to far more creative color schemes in kitchens and bathrooms. While white is still a popular choice, and can even be considered bold in the right setting, true color on cabinets is also gaining

traction among homeowners. With the right backsplash, countertops and flooring, you can safely install cabinets in a uniform color throughout the kitchen, but another on-trend option is to reserve the color for an island base or just one wall of cabinets. You could even mix and match colors on the tops and bottoms. Detail elements like the hardware provide another opportunity for a bold look. You can enhance the room's design with standout pulls that lend extra vibrance to the space.

Fabric with flair

Textiles provide nearly unlimited options to balance a bold design. Using lighter fabrics for elements such as draperies, upholstery, rugs and decorative pillows can soften the feel of a room with bold tones. Look for subtle patterns that pull in hints of the deeper hue to bring the look together, or simply coordinate shades from complementary color families.

Unexpected Pops of Color

Designers often talk about adding pops of color to bring together a palette, but there are no real rules about where those color enhancements can or should be. Introducing vibrant color in unexpected places can be an especially impactful way to stylize a room.

One example is with a skylight blind, which provides a decorative element while also allowing for light control. If you prefer a trendy option like combining dark colors with metallic accents, consider options such as a metallic gold skylight blind from Velux to connect to the room decor below. More than 80 color and pattern choices heighten the drama of a skylight blind, and you can choose from features like room darkening, light filtering and Venetian-style blinds to add function as well.

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What does your garden grow?

First, determine what kind of things you want to grow and how much work you want to put in. Are you comfortable on ladders, and do you have the room for fruit trees? Do you use a lot of herbs? What about edible flowers, such as viola?

Color on more than your plate

We know it's healthful to eat the rainbow and a plate full of colorful veg looks tasty. But you also can take advantage of those bright, beautiful colors in your garden. Consider pairing bursts of colorful greens, such as species of cabbage or kale, with snowy white cauliflower. Take advantage of the tall, leggy shapes of beans and tomatoes. Alternate the shapes not only for optic interest, but also to prevent diseases from spreading.

Herbs in more than pesto

Mix and match herbs with ornamentals in your garden. Some species even masquerade as ornamentals, especially if you leave some to bloom and go to seed. They also make a tasty meal for pollinators or even boost the smell in a bouquet of your homegrown blooms. Again, make sure to plan for your location and color. There are species of basil, for example, that are deep, vibrant purple and oregano that turns a lovely soft silver.



Perfect pots

If you've got a small space, never fear. Your local garden center can point you to herbs, greens, tomatoes and even fruit trees that thrive in pots. Remember to consider how you'll move the pots in case of a cold snap and how to feed and maintain these miniature produce aisles in your yard.

Focus on function

A beautiful kitchen may please the eye, but when it comes down to it, a kitchen's function is its greatest value. Integrate these ideas for a kitchen that offers maximum function for one of your home's most-used spaces.

Declutter the countertops. Consider incorporating pull-out and roll-out trays into your cabinetry to maximize your storage space, as well as dressing your cabinets with appropriate inserts and organizational kits. Eliminate wasted space by adding corner cabinets to utilize all your available space.

In addition, an option like Wellborn Cabinet's Aspire Full Access Frameless cabinetry makes it simple to create diverse design styles with better storage options than traditional cabinet framing allows. Without a face frame on the front of the cabinet box, this style provides more room for storage and easier accessibility. You can create a modernistic kitchen, a rustic farmhouse kitchen or a nature-styled kitchen.

Determine the island's function.

The island is often the visual centerpiece of the kitchen, but determining its function can maximize its benefit. Fully functional cabinetry around the island can provide added storage space. For example, custom cabinetry appliance panels let you not only conceal bulky appliances, they also give your wall cabinets more space and functionality.

Make recycling easy. Place the recycle and garbage bins in a drawer near the sink to allow for easier accessibility and keep them out of sight.

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On-trend home design

6 design approaches to explore in 2019

(Family Features) The influence of global cultures is increasingly visible in home decor as technology expands homeowners' worldviews. Acting on the inspiration of global trends can be as simple as shifting your outlook to bringing eye-catching features and everyday functions into your home.

For example, playing with color, replacing doors and incorporating unique accents can help contribute to an on-trend style that flows seamlessly from room to room. Colors offer the opportunity to create a mood and update a space. Doors provide an average of 800 square feet of previously untapped design potential that can add visual interest and enhance the functionality of a room. Unique accents invite whimsy and individuality.

As you make plans to redesign spaces within your home, watch for these trends in 2019 to support your lifestyle needs and design aspirations.

Nordic noir

If you crave simplicity and cleanliness, embrace the Scandinavian approach to design that's all about moderation. Nordic Noir upholds values of minimalism and timeless devotion to well-made elements that are beautiful in their own simplicity. Muted colors like blue-gray and pale rose come to life on walls and in fabrics. Doors made of dark metal and wood paired with glass panels bring natural light and warmth into the home.

Urban country

This trend brings the look and feel of rural living to urban spaces by pairing crisp white and warm neutrals with ornate fixtures. Elements like a craftsman-style front door with sidelights help to accentuate the home's original detailing, while well-crafted, handmade pieces bring the heart and soul of country living into the space. Urban Country is perfect for the fast-paced urbanite looking to live a more balanced, slow-paced lifestyle.

"These macro-trends influence our home design choices, down to the style of a front door," said Lorena Morales, creative director for Masonite International, a leading designer and manufacturer of interior and exterior doors. "With about 800 square feet of design space to work with, doors should play a pivotal role in the design of any home. A homeowner can begin to transform a room's entryway from Urban Country to Nordic Noir simply by choosing a door with glass that's clear over glass with iron caming. Materials, textures and colors are incredibly impactful elements in these trends."

Rustic luxury

Geared toward those who need a personal space where they can restore energy and find balance, Rustic Luxury design helps homeowners disconnect from the demands of everyday life. With this trend, the focus is on creating harmony between natural and architectural design elements. Try mixing sculptural design pieces and greenery with natural wood doors and concrete benches for a calming counterbalance to frenetic, fast-paced living.

Pretty and calm

As female buying-power continues to increase, spaces are being redesigned to fit the lifestyles of modern women who often appreciate both contemporary and traditional design. Biophilic elements mixed with pale-hued colors, luxurious touches and textured glass doors are all key features for Pretty and Calm design. To achieve this style, play with textures that feature warm yet bold colors like pale blue, sunshine yellow and sage. Don't be afraid to experiment with dissimilar



materials to find the right combination of interest and comfort.

"Trends like Pretty and Calm lean on neutrals that are more compelling than beige to create beautiful and calm interiors," said Kate Rumson, interior designer and founder of The Real Houses of Instagram. "When these pale hues are layered with dark, smoky colors like blacks and grays, this trend can appeal to nearly everyone. To complete the room, pair an ornate door featuring glass or polished nickel hardware with a soft finish to create a design element that's timeless."

Live and work

If you're one of more than 3.4 million Americans working from home at least half of the time, you may require transitional spaces that accommodate both productivity and downtime. To adopt this design trend, consider the use of furniture and products that can serve multiple purposes. For example, modern

barn doors in bold tones of vibrant orange or cool blue can provide privacy during work hours and serve as an industrial design accent off-hours.

Mediterranean escape

If you classify yourself as a traveler, you may favor the style of Mediterranean Escape. People who travel tend to bring blended influences from various cultures home. This trend helps homeowners showcase the intricate detail and culture in those treasured pieces. Paired with wrought iron accents, warm colors and arched doorways, Mediterranean Escape adds sophistication and story to nearly any space.

Trends don't have to impede individual design. Global influences like sustainability, craftsmanship and simplicity can be the foundation for creating an environment tailored to meet unique lifestyles and needs. Find more information and 2019 design inspiration at MasoniteTrends.com.

Decoding door styles

Swinging Door: This is a hinged door that swings into or out of a room and is the most standard interior door application.

Bifold Door: A folding door that has several sections that fold in pairs. Bifolds are most commonly made for closets but may also be used between rooms.

Bypass Door: A bypass door consists of two or more sections that can slide in either direction along one axis on parallel overhead tracks so that they slide past each other. They are most commonly used as closet doors to access one side of the closet at a time. The doors in a bypass unit will overlap slightly when viewed from the front to eliminate any visible gap between them.

Barn Door: An on-trend interior door option that uses externally mounted hardware to allow the door to slide over an opening without taking the space needed for a swinging door.

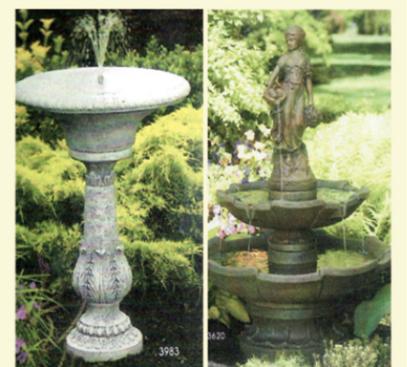


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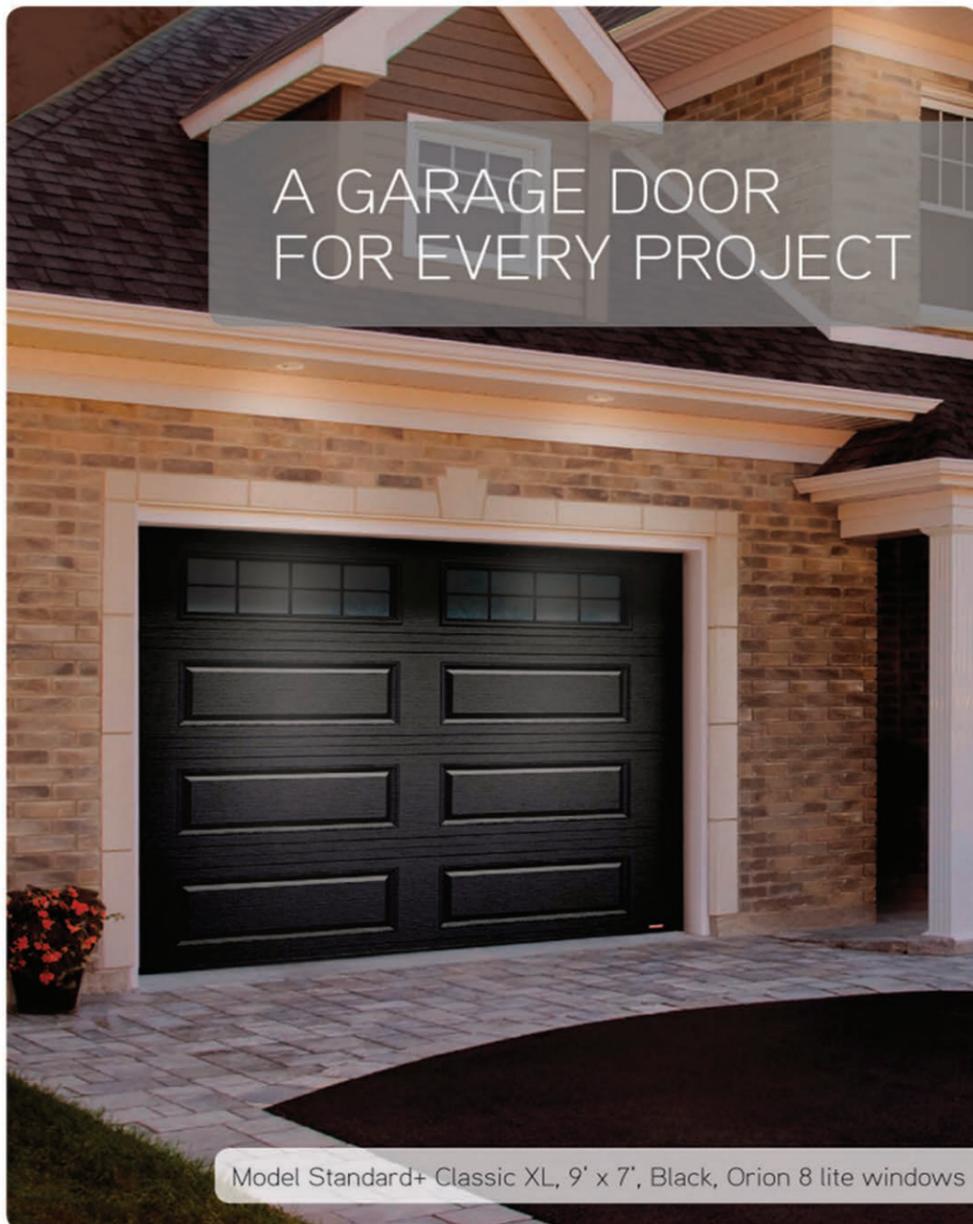


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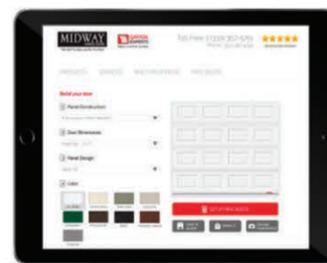
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