



Increase Your Home's Curb Appeal

Get inspired by these tips to make a few changes around your own home this spring. Choose from projects as easy as updating your landscaping or house numbers to as complex as getting a new front door or changing the color of your front door. A fresh and welcoming exterior is a wonderful thing to come home to each day.

ADD BIG & BOLD HOUSE NUMBERS



It's so easy to swap out house numbers, and this one thing can make a huge impact. Echo your house style in the numbers you choose — a clean sans serif font for a modern house, hand-painted tiles for a cottage, aged copper for a Prairie-style home etc.

PAINT THE FRONT DOOR



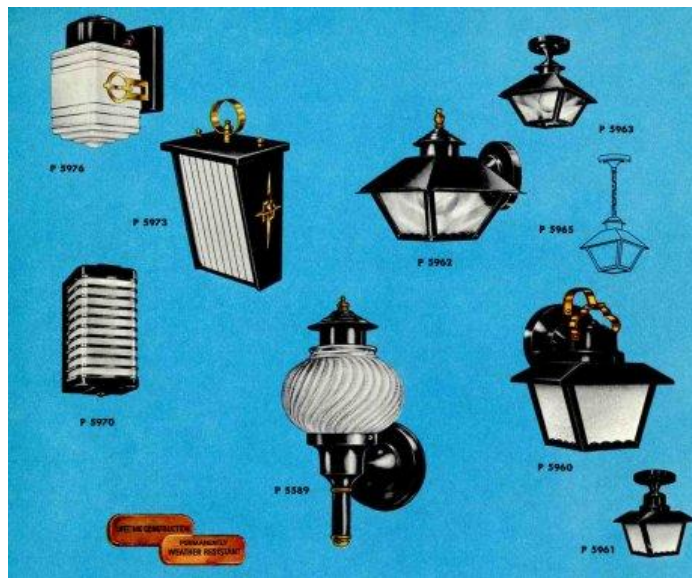
Make a bold statement and choose a dark color that contrasts your home color scheme. Have fun and choose a bright color to compliment your landscaping.

ADD PORCH FURNITURE



Whether you're buying new or repurposing an old set, porch furniture adds comfort and is welcoming to guests. A pair of matching rockers, Adirondack chairs or a cozy bench are all good choices when you have a front porch that is visible from the street.

SWAP OUT PORCH LIGHTING



Choose fixtures that compliment the architecture of your house. When choosing a finish go with a contrasting color black or oil rubbed bronze for lighter colored homes and antique nickel or brushed chrome for darker porches. Try replacing tiny sconces with a big, statement-making pendant light or chandelier. For nighttime security try recessed lighting beneath the eaves or install solar lights along the front walk. This article from This Old House has great tips on choosing the right landscape lighting

<http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/photos/0,,20484224,00.html>

DO SOME HARDSCAPING



Built-in concrete planters, a low stone wall or new paths are all great ways to add structure to your front yard that will last for many years to come.

SPRUCE UP THE SIDE YARD



Even if you don't live on a corner, most side yards are visible from the street. Camouflage trash cans, air conditioners or other eyesores with attractive landscaping or fencing, clear out weeds and even lay out a neat path to the backyard.

See how to transform your side yard <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/query/side-yard>

ADD DEPTH WITH A FENCE



A low fence around a property not only adds a welcome boundary between a hectic street and a private space, but it also makes the front yard seem larger.

REPLACE A LAWN WITH FLOWERS OR DECORATIVE GRASSES



Dig up part or all of your front lawn and plant perennials instead for a lush landscape that sets your house apart.

REPAIR THE DRIVEWAY & PATHS



Cement, stone and pavement all can split and crack over time. Repairing or replacing damaged areas can do wonders to freshen up your home's street view.

PAINT THE GARAGE DOOR



The picture above shows a mural painted on the garage door. You may not want to do anything this detailed but the garage takes up a lot of visual space, so it pays to make sure it looks its best. A fresh coat of paint in a complimentary or contrasting color will present a well maintained look to your home.

REFINISH THE PORCH FLOOR



If your porch floor has seen better days, renew it by stripping off old layers of paint and finish, and brushing on stain or paint.

ADD A DOOR KNOCKER



A variety of styles & finishes are available. Make a statement and go bold with a style that represents you personality. Shiny new hardware can make even the plainest door look classy.

TRY A UNIQUE FRONT DOOR



A really eye-catching front door can be just the thing to give a plain exterior a big dose of personality. Whether it's supersleek and modern steel or a beautifully detailed [Craftsman-style door](#), it can set the tone for the entire house.

MATCH PLANTINGS TO YOUR HOUSE STYLE



Let the plants and pots you choose reflect the style of your house for a cohesive look. Accent a modern home with succulents and spiky-leaved plants in simple round pots, or surround your cottage with lush beds of flowers.