



Spring Home Improvement

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Bathroom MAKEOVER

Veteran homeowners recognize the value of remodeling their kitchens and bathrooms. Kitchens and baths tend to appear dated more quickly than other spaces, such as living rooms and bedrooms, which can always be revamped with some fresh paint and new furnishings.

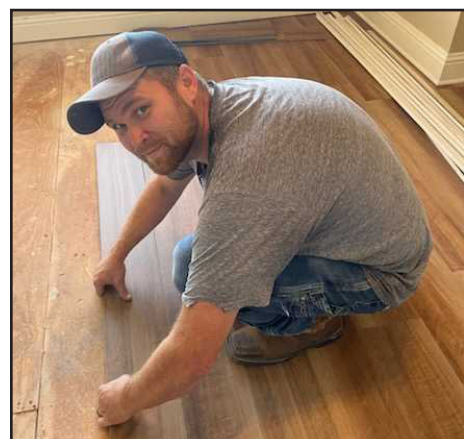
The home improvement pricing resource Home Guide indicates an average bathroom remodel costs anywhere from \$5,500 to \$15,000 depending on the size and scope of the renovation. However, a bath redo can increase a home's resale value and can return as much as 68 percent of homeowners' investments. As homeowners plan their bathroom renovations, it's a good time to consider improvements that will improve function and add design appeal for years to come.

- **Natural textures:** Create a calm and serene sanctuary in the bathroom with light, natural hues and materials. Nature-inspired colors on tiles, walls and vanities can add to the spa vibe.

- **Small textured tile on shower floors:** Small textures are appealing and add safety. The added texture and grouting will keep feet from slipping on wet floors. Also, opt for mold-resistant grout to make cleanup even easier.

- **Special shower heads:** Invest in shower heads that can run the gamut from creating steam showers to rainfall effects. Some showers will have multiple shower jets to offer an invigorating experience.

- **Install a window:** Natural light and air flow can reduce the risk for mold and mildew growth, and windows add some aesthetic appeal to a space. Just be sure to choose frosted privacy glass.



*This bathroom remodel was done
Joey Rohrer.
Give him a call at
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BEFORE



BEFORE



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER



AFTER



3 Affordable Kitchen Upgrades to Consider

(StatePoint) Is remodeling your kitchen on your wish list? Afraid of how much it'll set you back?

HomeAdvisor puts the average kitchen remodel price in the \$12,567 to \$34,962 range. However, you can buck the trend of costly, complicated updates. Consider these three renovations, all of which will improve the look and functionality of your kitchen, without costing you thousands of dollars:

Refresh Fabrics

Reupholstering just one chair means shelling out \$150 to \$600, according to HomeGuide. If that's beyond what you're willing to pay, but you're not ready to replace a beloved set of kitchen chairs, you can update their look on a budget and in just a few minutes with stretchable seat covers. A good choice for families with kids or pets, these covers are typically machine-washable and can be swapped out as often as you like to suit your mood. From geometric designs to citrus vibes to florals, they're offered in a range of patterns that will look great with any style.

New Granite Surfaces

Countertops are the most common feature upgraded during kitchen renovations, according to a 2022 Houzz study, which found that nine in 10 remodelers performed this update. The same survey found that 35% of homeowners are splurging to make it happen. If you've looked into granite countertops, you probably learned that it can cost thousands of dollars and take months to

have them custom-made and installed.

Adding this touch of luxury to your kitchen doesn't have to bust your budget, involve contractors or mean supply chain hassles. It can actually be an easy, one-weekend DIY project.



Using a LuxROCK Solid Surface Granite Countertop Kit from Daich Coatings, you can transform your countertops and island surfaces at just a fraction of the price of a professional granite countertop installation. For about \$300, a kit covers 40 square feet of space. This functional and decorative blend of real stone with stunning mineral highlights can be used to give a smooth appearance to countertops, tables or any other surface. And because the authentic stone surface resists stains, heat and impact and is food safe, it's a great solution for the kitchen.

Each kit includes a prime coat, stone coats, clear epoxy and a clear coat finish, as well as all the tools needed. This revolutionary and exceptionally easy resurfacing project doesn't require any artistic skills to be a success. Nor does it require technical skills, as sinks, plumbing fixtures and existing countertops don't need to be removed before application.

If you're someone who likes the flexibility of changing things up every few years, it's simple to update granite surface colors using another LuxROCK kit when you're ready. Both this U.S. patent-pending kit and the brand's textured countertop kits are available online at The Home Depot and Lowe's.

Optimize Your Pantry

Pantries are often tucked away, but you can still give them an eye-catching makeover. For fresh pops of color, paint the pantry door and wallpaper the interior. Group items by height, then use

customizable shelving to stretch storage real estate. You may also wish to transfer kitchen staples to uniform containers. This will offer a tidier, more visually appealing look, while helping you make better use of limited space. Whether you opt for mason jars, ceramic canisters, or BPA-free plastic cubes, label containers carefully.

It's the heart of the home, but that doesn't mean you need to break the bank to create your dream kitchen. With ingenuity, you can improve its look and functionality at an affordable price point and in just a weekend.

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10 Ways to Spruce Up Your Outdoor Space

- 1. Check your deck. Inspect your deck or patio for repairs or needed upgrades. Check for cracked boards, tiles or fittings, and re-sand or add gravel to existing patios. Refinish your deck or make repairs well before your first scheduled party.
- 2. Find shade. Make sure you have an operational umbrella that will provide a refuge from direct sun.
- 3. Create multiple areas for entertaining. Provide a spot for dining, one for lounging and one for recreation, for example. They don't have to be large or spread out, just distinct enough that no one gets a shuttlecock in their pasta salad.
- 4. Incorporate an outdoor cooking station. Make sure you have the gear you need so that you don't have to keep popping back into the house. If you have a basic set-up, consider adding a smoker for a new take on grilling.
- 5. Bring in plenty of blooms. Either in a garden bed or in moveable planters, the color of showy flowers will add an enormous amount of enjoyment to the outdoor experience.
- 6. Coordinate blooms with your décor. Instead of picking random pretty plants, select ones that tie into your cushions, pillows and other décor elements.
- 7. Create small vignettes. Petite seating areas sprinkled throughout your outdoor space are a fun surprise.
- 8. Use bold, rich colors. Reds, oranges, blues and yellows are cheery options for furniture and décor.
- 9. Update your furniture. Replace any pieces that have become old and worn from the elements.
- 10. Add lighting. From lanterns to fairy lights, outdoor lighting lets you enjoy your outdoor space after the sun goes down.

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BOSSIER REMODELING

celebrates
86
years in business

The Bossier business scene has recently experienced a slew of shops, bars and restaurants either closing their doors for good or making the city their home.

However, one particular business has stood the test of time as it has called Bossier home for the past 86 years.

In 1936, Bossier Remodeling started off as a roofing company but over the last 86 years, it has evolved into a remodeling compa-

ny, as customers wanted rotten exterior repaired while replacing roofs. And, this transpired into customers inviting Bossier Remodeling into their homes for bathroom and kitchen remodels. So, over time the company's focus shifted to mainly remodeling.

In the 1980s, when the stock market crashed, business became slow for Bossier Remodeling. So in order to stay afloat, they began to purchase and build commercial buildings

as investments. However, the company never gave up on its remodeling roots.

One thing that sets Bossier Remodeling apart from everyone else is that they have an in house crew. "We don't sub out our labor. Our lead carpenters have been with us for 40 years (plus) and 20 years (plus). We also have a business partner that is a licensed plumber. This gives us an upper hand in getting work done in a timely manner. We also are a fourth generation company. Not many people can say that they work at the same company their great-grandfather started. We take pride in continuing both the legacy and the opportunities our forefathers created for us, so we can continue them for our children," said Tammy Smith of Bossier Remodeling.

Something else that sets Bossier Remodeling apart from everyone else is that it has been passed down through the family for four generations. In Smith's own words, "As the fourth generation of our family takes the reins in the company, we see them move forward with more technology features while staying close to our roots by maintaining personal interaction with our customers. We plan to continue to grow with the times and adapt as we always have."

Continuously expanding their expertise and a willingness to provide the very best experience for their customers makes Bossier Remodeling special. For the past 15 years, Bossier Remodeling has turned to design while continuing to remodel residential and commercial structures.

With mega DIY design apps like Pinterest and DIY television shows widely available, Bossier Remodeling recognized that their customer base not

only expected them to build their dream space, but also to offer assistance with ideas to make their project look like their vision board.

Bossier Remodeling now offers their expertise in residential and commercial remodeling for every corner of their customer's home including: room additions, patio coverings, concrete work, roofing, and decking.

"Over the past 86 years we have worked tirelessly to overcome the many obstacles that we have faced in our business. As such, we are thankful to our community for trusting us to come into their home (which is their safe place) to make their project complete. The trust that our customers have placed in us has allowed our family to continue thriving and it has also left a legacy that will be passed down for generations to come," said Smith.

As a company that has been in business for 86 years, Bossier Remodeling has most definitely experienced the ups of a stable economy and the downs of an unstable economy. The company has also seen both the rapid change in technology and the tremendous growth that has happened over the last few decades within the Bossier community.

Smith wants to give one piece of advice to someone who wants to start their own business, "Try to find what you do well and stay in that niche. When you give 150% everyday, people take notice. We do our best everyday to put forth quality work, which has translated into several repeat customers and lots of our business being done through word of mouth. Once again, our company's best advice is to try to find what you do well and stay in that niche."

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Things You Must Know When Painting a House Exterior

Does your house need a new coat of exterior paint? Is the paint flaking or fading, or do you just want to change up the color scheme? No matter the reason, a new exterior paint job can really improve the looks of your home and enhance its curb appeal.

Are you thinking of doing the job yourself? Painting your home's exterior surfaces and trim can be a big job. It requires lots of time and effort, and if it's not done right, it will look shoddy.

You may not realize all the steps necessary to get quality results from your exterior paint project. We've listed them here to inform you what the professionals do to achieve success. And as a warning that if any steps in the process are skipped, you may not like the outcome.

1. GET ALL THE MATERIALS AND TOOLS

Before you even start, it's best to make sure you have everything necessary to complete the project from start to finish. You don't want to have to stop and go to the paint or hardware store for something you forgot.

Some items you'll need include:

- Primer
- Exterior paint
(flat or eggshell plus exterior semi-gloss)
- Pressure washer
- Paint sprayer
- Paintbrushes and rollers

- Painter's tape
- Drop cloths
- Plastic sheeting
- Ladder
- Paint scraper
- Epoxy filler
- Medium-grit sanding block
- Putty knife
- Exterior caulking
- Caulk gun

Make sure you purchase enough of each item for the square footage of your house. Also, you may need more than one ladder, or even scaffolding, if you have a two-story house.

2. CLEAN SURFACES

The paint will adhere better and go on smoother on a clean surface. Use a pressure washer to remove debris, dirt, and dust. Work from top to bottom, overlapping each stroke for full coverage.

3. REPAIR DAMAGES

You'll need to fill in any holes or cracks with epoxy filler with a putty knife. Allow epoxy to dry, then sand the surface.

4. PROTECT SURROUNDING AREA

Use drop cloths and plastic sheeting to protect landscaping, outdoor furnishings, or other items in the paint area that can't be moved. Use painter's tape to keep paint from getting on trim, doors, and windows.

5. SCRAPE OFF LOOSE PAINT

Use a paint scraper to remove any chipped paint. You may need to sand

down these scraped surfaces afterward.

6. FILL IN CRACKS

You'll need to caulk the gaps between siding and trim, and around doors and windows.

7. PRIME IF NEEDED

Primer is not always needed; for example, if you're repainting with the same color or a darker color. However, going to a lighter shade will need a coat of primer. You can use the paint sprayer to apply the primer; however, because of its thickness, you may need to thin the primer out for easier application.

8. PAINT THE SIDING

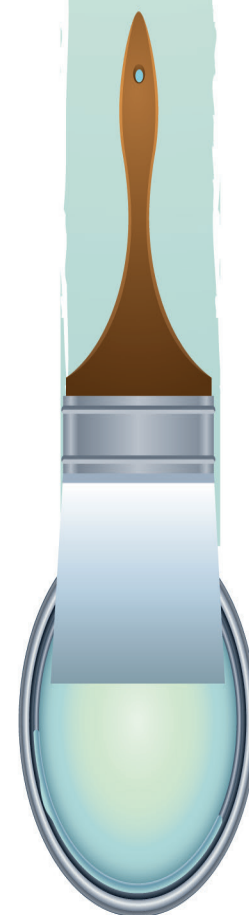
Fill the paint sprayer with the flat or eggshell exterior paint and spray from top to bottom, overlapping each stroke. Depending on the color of paint, you may need two coats.

9. PAINT THE TRIM

Once the painted siding is dry, remove the sheeting and painter's tape from the windows, trim, and doors. Apply two coats of exterior semi-gloss paint to the trim with a paintbrush.

10. CLEAN UP!

Once every exterior surface is painted, as desired, it's time to clean up the area. Remove any drop cloths that cover non-painted items or areas. Clean up any spills. Remove all tools and materials from the work site.



Tips to add Farmhouse-Style Elements

(StatePoint) When it comes to home design, farmhouse style represents a total intersection of beauty and practicality, making it no surprise that many are embracing this traditional look today. Whatever architectural style your home is, adding key design elements can help you get in on best aspects of the farmhouse trend. Here are a few renovations to consider:

- An updated porch: Adding a front porch or expanding an existing porch will not only add charming farmhouse-style curb appeal, but extend your outdoor living area as well. Be sure to take as much care decorating your porch as you would any other room of your home. Include comfy furniture, like rocking chairs and a porch swing, complete with cushions. Add potted plants for a touch of vibrant greenery, lantern wall sconces for illumination, and outdoor rugs for coziness. Don't forget the entryway. Make it more inviting with seasonal wreaths and a cheerful welcome mat.

- Board 'n batten siding: Imparting a rustic, handmade quality to any home, even those built-in contemporary styles, "board 'n batten" is a centuries-old siding design that encapsulates the appeal of farmhouse-style homes. The term "batten" refers to the strip of molding placed across the joint between boards. The resulting look boasts an attractive geometry of strong vertical lines balanced by a sense of texture across the horizontal face. While the look is traditional, you can pair it with the very latest in siding technology. For example, CedarMAX Insulated Siding from ProVia comes in many styles,

including board 'n batten. This complete thermal cladding system offers continuous insulation for

maximum energy savings. With five times greater impact resistance than regular siding and a weather barrier shield, this is not just a charming aesthetic upgrade, but one that will improve the comfort of your home for years to come.

- Metal roofing: There's a reason metal roofing plays prominently into the design of authentic farmhouses -- they are built to last. That's truer than ever today, thanks to advances in metal roofing technology. Offering superior color retention, long-term reliability, energy efficiency and environmental friendliness, architectural-grade metal shingle roofing is an upgrade that can add both beauty and value to your home. In the case of ProVia's Metal Slate Roofing, which is designed to look like classic quarried slate shingles, you can draw on the beauty of nature in shades of gray and brown, while enjoying proven protection from hail, wind, rain, and corrosion.

- Interior touches: Restyle your home's interior to be farmhouse-inspired with a few renovations. Classic looks include neutral walls, such as matte shades of beige, grays and creams, shabby chic furniture -- think wicker, distressed wood and reclaimed lumber -- and hardwood flooring. Consider dusting off a few hand-me-downs or visiting antique shops and estate sales for one-of-a-kind finds. Above all, be sure to prioritize comfort, warmth, and practicality.

To embrace everything that a home should be -- an inviting place to gather with friends and family -- add farmhouse-style touches to your home, indoors and out.



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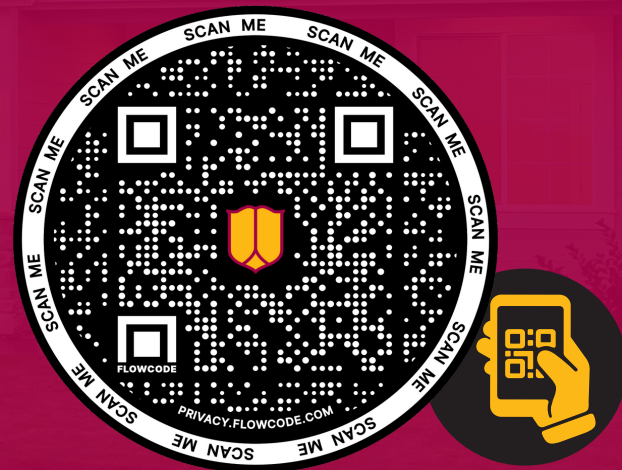
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