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Exterior Decorating on a Budget

By Kathleen Wilson

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Many times we are so busy decorating the interior of our home , we forget about the view most people see first...the outside! Perhaps we all believe improvements to the exterior of the home must be expensive. Not true! What a better place to showcase your clever creativity than where every passerby can see!

Your best friend here is a building site. Find out where they are building new homes in your area, and go talk to the contractor in charge of the site. Most of these sites have scrap piles where they discard huge amounts of materials they can't use, either because they aren't the right size, a mistake was made, or a myriad of other reasons. Ask the contractor if you can help yourself to their scrap pile, most are more than willing to let you.

Here you can find large pieces of ½ inch siding, scrap wood, broken tiles, vinyl flooring remnants, and possibly even leftover paint or countertop material. Look at everything with the eye of the budget decorator, you can make something out of all these things!

Use the siding and scrap wood to make garden furniture, decorative shutters for your windows, or as architectural elements on your existing features. For instance, we have several large 6x6 columns on our porch, very plain lumber. We are using scrap 1x4 and 1x2 to add wrap around moldings on these columns, and painting them to contrast. It looks like a custom porch column! You could add simple shapes as appliqué's to doors, gable areas, or empty walls.

Use broken tiles to make a mosaic table for the porch, or create mosaic stepping stones for the yard. You could even update a tired old picnic table with the tiles. Create a wood plaque with the scrap wood, glue or paint your house #,s on it, and add mosaic tiling around the border for a very expensive look.

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If you can find a fencing company willing to give you their discards, make garden posts for hanging lanterns or plants from posts. Be sure to cement these in the ground. Use the boards to make rustic planters, or cut them down to make picket style garden fencing. Make an shingle style mailbox.

Vinyl flooring scraps can be made into floorcloths for your porch or patio with a little paint and polyurethane, and can be as decorative or as simple as you want, custom matching your homes colors and styles.

As you can see, with a little bit of hunting, you can find the materials to make the exterior of your home look like a masterpiece for almost no money, and you are saving a lot of good materials from our waste dumps!

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Kathleen Wilson is the editor of a free ezine and website called The Budget Decorator. When she's not decorating or gardening she's caring for her 5 kids, 3 stepkids, and wonderful husband. You can get more info and free projects at her website <http://www.thebudgetdecorator.com>

Unlimited Choices For Remodeling The Exterior Of A Home

By D Fraser

We usually have a lot of ideas for remodeling the exterior of a home. The first thing we think of is the painting that can be done to the exterior. The second would be the change that can be done to the texture and the third is the use of tiles or stones. These are sure to change the look of your home to make it look modern.

Remodeling the Exterior of a Home - The Cost Involved

Cost is something that cannot be ignored when it come to remodeling the exterior of a home. It is in fact the main factor that decides what can be done at a particular time for the exterior. Only upon deciding the cost and the fund that is available with you the decision to go for remodeling the exterior of a home is taken.

The affordable remodeling the exterior of a home can be done by just painting the exterior to give it a different look. You can't expect the painting to last for long but there are hand paintings that are done which lasted for over 15 years without any damage. Use the best paints available in the market when you go for painting. This would reduce the overall cost over the years to come. Follow the correct painting methods to make it last longer.

Remodeling the Exterior of a Home - The Best Way to Choose

When you go for remodeling the exterior of a home you have to consider the expense that you make on this task. If the expense that you make is justified in terms of improving the overall value of the

house then you can go ahead with the task of remodeling the exterior of a home. Expense is the important factor that is to be considered in remodeling the exterior of a home.

Most of the time, just a painting job will give the necessary effect in changing the looks of a home. It might change your home into a palace and sometimes you need to use creativity and ingenuity to get it. Consult specialists in this field before you venture into remodeling the exterior of a home. These experts or contractors would guide you to get the best possible result out of remodeling the exterior of a home.

For articles, tips, and ideas on remodeling the interior or exterior of your home take a moment to drop by our website at



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