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Spring Renewal for your Home's Exterior

By Kathleen Wilson

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Come every Spring, we become a little more conscious of the way our home looks to all those who pass by. Often times it is out of our budget to repaint, or remodel the exterior of your home. Here are some great tight budget tips for dressing up the outside of your home with "Creativity, Not Cash!" TM

1. Stand out on your sidewalk and take a picture of your home from the street. Often times we do not really "see" what is there because we have become so accustomed to it. Take your photo to a copy shop and print out a few copies of it, blown up to fit the paper. Now you can spend some time drawing in your wish list for changes...add a fence, draw an arbor over your entrywalk, add planters...and come up with some low cost ways to accomplish it! (Kind of a low cost version of that expensive software) This one step could save you a lot of time, money, and work...not to mention get you to the home you want in a much smoother fashion!

2. Consider learning some woodworking skills. With just a little education and a rented saw, you can build arbors and decorative fences for a fraction of what it would cost to have it installed. You can often get free instruction at your local home improvement center. Check out http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gl_garden_structures/0,1784,HGTV_3588,00.html or http://www.bhg.com/bhg/category.jhtml?categoryid=emplatedata/bhg/category/data/Hie_Basics_Carpentry.xml for some help. Now remember, if you can't afford to totally fence in your yard, or build a big gazebo, how about just adding a little decorative fences at the corners of the yard, and a simple decorative gate marking the entrance to your yard? It only takes a little to add a whole lot of character.

3. If you already have a concrete drive and walkway, and you find it boring, dress it up by lining it with brick. It doesn't cost much, and all it takes is a little elbow grease digging a trench to lay the brick in alongside the walkway, then pack the dirt back around them to hold in place...no mortaring necessary for this! Another low cost option? Use porch paint and stamp a brick walkway with a large rectangular sponge. You can use a basketweave pattern, or lay it on the diagonal, whatever works for you!

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4. Add shutters to your windows. Now, you don't have to buy those expensive premade ones that everyone else has, you can make simple ones yourself. You can use plywood and edge it in wood trim, then paint, or just hang a few vertical 1x2's 4 inches apart to form the a rectangular shape alongside your window, indicating shutters. You may be able to find much of this wood in scrap piles. Just make sure the pieces are not warped. Now paint with exterior trim paint, and watch the charm go up! Be sure to use galvanized screws or nails to build and hang them so they won't rust.

5. Finally, add some personal touches to your entry, to make your home more welcoming. Hand paint a wood plaque from the craft store with your family name or a favorite quote and hang it beside your front door. Add a wreath or a swag to your entry door. You can make one easily from a grapevine or straw wreath and add your own touches...some garden tools, silk flowers, small wood plaques with the family member's names, seashells...whatever represents your tastes. Fill a planter with flowers or

shade plants and place it right by your door to add life, add a chair or bench if you have room. If you have a table and a covered porch, don't be afraid to bring out candles, throw pillows, and even a throw rug to create your porch "room"! Just remember to use your creativity, add your personal touch, and use that elbow grease, and soon people will stop when they pass your home impressed, by your creativity!

Kathleen Wilson is an author, national columnist, and editor of The Budget Decorator ezine. For more free ideas, projects, and inspiration for your home, visit her at <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.

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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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