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## Increase Your Curb Appeal

If you're looking to put your home on the market or maybe just spruce it up, curb appeal, or the way it looks from the front, is a great place to start. Keep reading for more projects that can catch the eye of buyers and neighbors alike.

### A LITTLE PAINT GOES A LONG WAY

Snag a gallon of exterior paint (around \$50) and give your front door some pizzazz. A bold color that stands out but still coordinates with the rest of your exterior color palette can make your home pop. Remember if you live in an area with a homeowners association or other civic organization to get it cleared with them before paying a visit to the home improvement store.

### DO SOME PLANTING

Properly planted trees can lower your utility bills and your stress levels.

Talk with the experts at your local garden center about which trees to plant and where on your property. You want to avoid any underground utility lines, plumbing or irrigation systems, and you should place trees far enough from a sidewalk, driveway or foundation that they don't damage it with their roots. Your little tree will need to be watered often in its first year, and you should fertilize them in the spring and fall.

### LIVEN UP YOUR WINDOWS

While you're at the garden center, ask about installing window boxes on

your front windows and porch railings. Fill them with low-maintenance annuals each season to provide a punch of color and charm to the front of your home.

### CLEAN UP THE CONCRETE

Driveways, sidewalks and pathways can take up a lot of real estate. Keep them looking in perfect condition by pressure washing them and sealing them on a regular schedule. Use a detergent specifically made for pressure washing your surface and work on removing stains before you reseal it. Also edge around all of your concrete to keep grass and gardens neat.

### REPLACE THE MAILBOX

If your mailbox or its post have seen better days, grab a new one. Make sure you're following the regulations set forth by the U.S. Postal Service, including the distance from the road, height and more. The best posts to use, the USPS says, are stable but bend

or fall over when struck by a car. The Federal Highway Administration recommends a 4x4-inch wooden support or a two-inch diameter steel or aluminum pipe. Avoid using heavy metal pipes, concrete posts and farm equipment. Bury the post no more than two feet deep.

### PLANT AN ARBOR

Install an arbor at the end of the walkway leading to your home, complete with a climbing rose, clematis or other plant conducive to your environment and lifestyle. Talk to your local garden center about options for you, including ready-made arbors that can be installed in a snap.

### CLEAN THE ROOF AND GUTTERS

Remove the moss from your roof and get your gutters squeaky clean. Not only will it look better, but it'll also protect your roof from damage. If you're not comfortable on the roof, hire a professional.

### REAL ESTATE 101



### HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

#### The Lion's Share

The lion's share — 92% — of Realtors surveyed last year suggest sellers improve curb appeal prior to listing a home for sale. Suggested projects included landscape maintenance, lawn care service and tree care.

**Concession:** Something given up or agreed to in the negotiation of the sale of a house. For example, the sellers may agree to help pay for closing costs. That's a concession.

# AD SPACE

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