

## Curb Appeal Tips For Homeowners

### Affordable Exterior Updates That Help Homes Make a Strong Impression

**F**irst impressions start at the curb, whether you are welcoming friends or preparing to sell. Many of the most effective exterior improvements are straightforward weekend projects that can refresh a home's look without major construction.

Good curb appeal is also about upkeep. A clean, well-cared-for exterior can signal that routine maintenance has not been ignored, which is something buyers often notice during a drive-by or a showing.

#### **FRESH PAINT, CLEAR LINES**

A new coat of paint on a front door is one of the simplest ways to change a home's look. For houses with peeling trim or faded shutters, touching up small areas can sharpen the overall appearance without repainting the entire exterior.

Surface prep matters. Scraping loose paint, sanding rough spots and using the right exterior primer helps paint adhere, especially on older wood that has weathered through seasons of sun, rain and freeze-thaw cycles.

#### **LIGHTING AND SAFETY**

Exterior lighting can



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improve both appearance and visibility. Replacing a worn porch light with a modern, weather-rated fixture can update an entry quickly, and adding matching house numbers helps visitors find the home at night.

Motion-sensor lights near a garage or side entrance can add peace of mind. The goal is a well-lit path from the sidewalk or driveway to the front door, with fixtures placed to reduce dark corners.

#### **YARD, WALKS, AND ENTRY**

Landscaping does not have to mean a full redesign. Trimming overgrown shrubs, edging along sidewalks and pulling weeds can restore clean sightlines to windows and walkways. Mulch in planting beds can make greenery look intentional while helping soil hold moisture.

Hard surfaces deserve attention, too. Sweeping porches, pressure-washing a driveway and cleaning algae

from steps can brighten concrete and stone. If a walkway has cracks or uneven sections, small repairs can reduce trip hazards while improving the overall look.

#### **SMALL DETAILS THAT READ BIG**

Mailboxes, doorbells and hardware are easy to overlook, yet they sit at eye level. Replacing a rusted mailbox, tightening a loose handrail and swapping mismatched knobs for consistent finishes can make an entry feel cared

for.

Windows also frame a home. Washing exterior glass and screens can make interiors look brighter from the street, and replacing torn screens can help during showings when windows are opened for fresh air.

Curb appeal is rarely one dramatic change. It is the accumulation of many small, visible improvements that make a home feel welcoming and well maintained, which can support its appeal in any market.



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### REAL ESTATE 101



#### Start at the Front Door

Walk up to your entry like a first-time visitor. Fix what you touch and see first: a solid door-mat, readable house numbers, working light and a clean, freshly painted door.

### HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

**Curb Appeal:** Curb appeal is the visual impression a home makes from the street, including the condition of the yard, exterior surfaces, entry and lighting. It can influence how buyers perceive upkeep.

# AD SPACE