# HOMEWISE

Real Estate Tips and Advice

## **Increase Your Home's Value** Smart Upgrades That Attract Buyers and Up Your Selling Price

hen preparing to sell your home, the right improvements can make a big difference in both price and buyer interest.

While major renovations can be costly, small strategic updates often provide the best return on investment. Here's how to maximize your home's value before listing it for sale.

### PRIORITIZE CURB

First impressions matter. A home's exterior sets the tone for buyers before they even step inside. Simple updates like fresh landscaping, a new front door or power-washing the driveway can enhance curb appeal instantly. Adding potted plants, repainting shutters and updating exterior lighting also create a welcoming entrance.

If the exterior paint is fading or peeling, consider a fresh coat in a neutral color. While full repainting can be costly, focusing on key areas like the front door and trim can provide a quick boost in appearance.

#### UPGRADE KEY INTERIOR SPACES

Kitchens and bathrooms are two of the most influential



spaces for buyers.

A full remodel may not be necessary. Simple changes like updating cabinet hardware, replacing faucets or installing modern light fixtures can give these spaces a fresh look without a big investment.

If the kitchen feels outdated, consider upgrading appliances to stainless steel or adding a stylish backsplash. Replacing worn countertops with quartz or granite can also increase appeal, especially in higher-end markets.

Bathrooms can benefit from similar minor updates. Replacing old mirrors, refinishing cabinets or installing new towel racks and showerheads can create a clean, modern feel. Bright, neutral paint colors help make both kitchens and bathrooms look larger and more inviting.

#### MAKE YOUR HOME MOVE-IN READY

Buyers are drawn to homes

that feel well-maintained and move-in ready. Fix minor repairs, replace outdated fixtures and ensure all major systems are in good working order. A pre-listing inspection can help identify hidden issues, preventing surprises during the selling process.

Decluttering and staging your home also make a significant impact.

Removing excess furniture, personal items and bulky decor creates a more spacious feel.

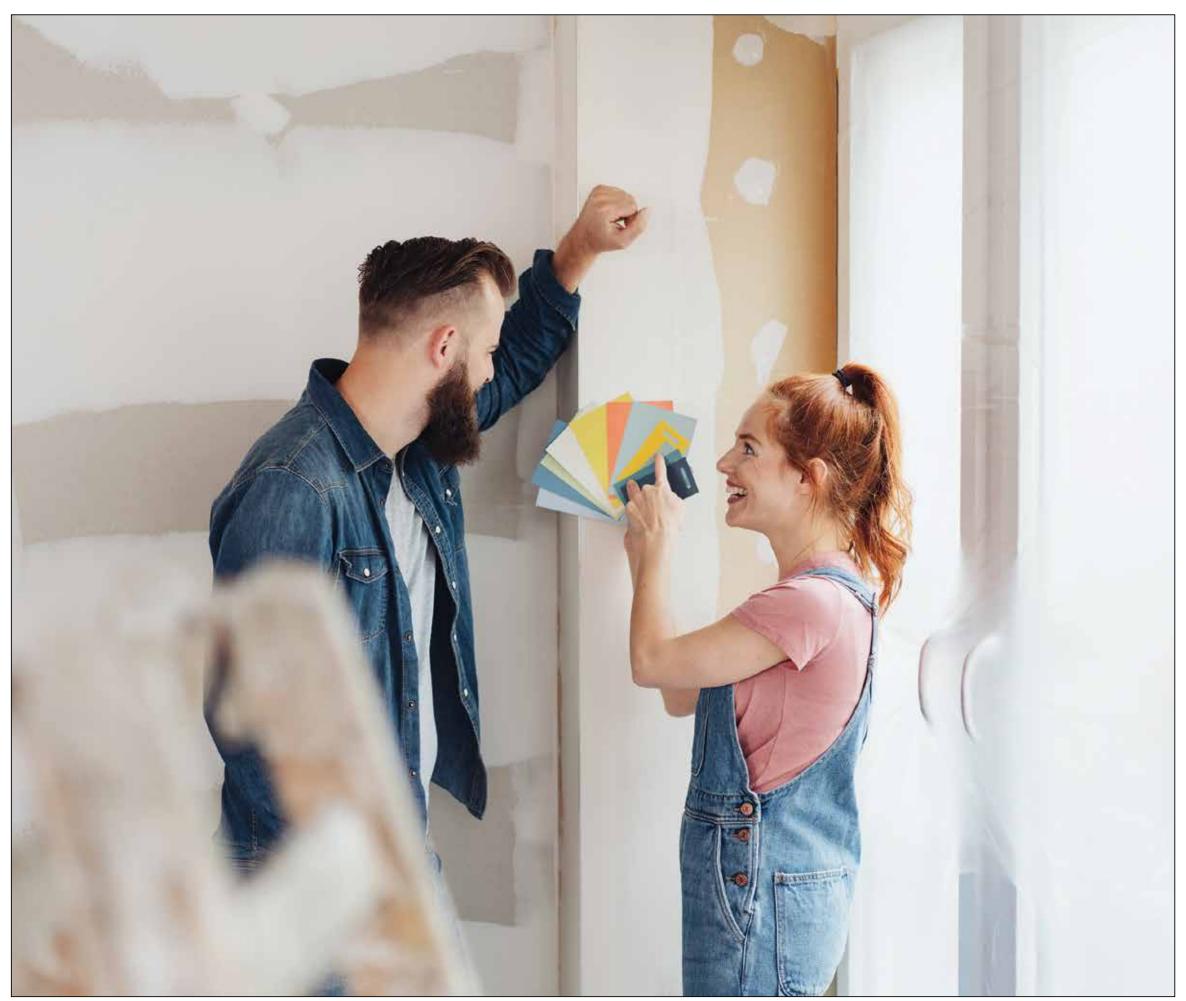
Well-staged homes allow buyers to picture themselves in the space, making them more likely to make an offer. Even small upgrades can increase a home's value and attract more buyers in a tough market.

By focusing on curb appeal, key interior updates and move-in-ready features, sellers can maximize their home's appeal while keeping renovation costs under control.

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#### **REAL ESTATE 101**



#### **Focus on Cost-Effective Upgrades**

Not all renovations offer a strong return on investment. Before selling, prioritize improvements that boost value without overextending your budget, such as fresh paint, updated lighting or minor kitchen upgrades.

**Return on Investment (ROI):** Return on investment (ROI) measures the profitability of a home improvement project. It's calculated by comparing the cost of the upgrade to the increase in home value or sale price. High-ROI renovations typically include kitchen updates, bathroom remodels and curb appeal improvements.

### AD SPACE