

How To Decorate Your House Like A Pro

# HOW TO DECORATE YOUR HOUSE LIKE A PRO SELECTED TIPS - 60 PAGES!



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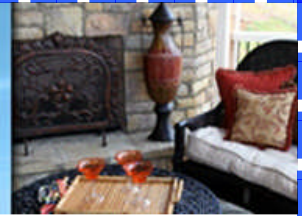
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## What Is Home Improvement?

Home improvements are basically adding or renovating things in your home. Usually it is carried out by a professional tradesman or handy man but more often people are trying to go it alone to save themselves extortionate fees. When home owners do home improvements they are known as amateurs and it is no longer called home improvement, it is known as DIY (Do it yourself).

Bob Villa is one of the most well known authors and television hosts when it comes to home improvement books and television shows; there is also a television show called "Home improvement" which uses this theme for humor, the show stars Tim Allen.

There are lots of different types of home improvement, wallpapering, upgrading units, laying new carpets, transforming cellars and attics into other rooms and adding new extensions on to the house are just some of the types of home improvement that you can do.

Many people often get confused between home improvement and home repair; they are both different from each other. Home repair is basically finding problems then fixing them. Most repairs are do it yourself kind of things but sometimes, just occasionally may be your pipes will burst and you will need to call in the professionals! Home improvement on the other hand is bettering your home, adding new things to it, changing the style of it or just adding a bit of a theme to it.

When people embark on a home improvement project they more often than not draw up a financial plan of some sort, basically this is to save them money. If you don't have a budget then you are likely to spend much, much more than you need to! Often money can be saved by purchasing things that have promotional offers on them such as half price offers or buy one get one frees. These are the best things you can do to save you some money!

Before starting out on any home improvement project make sure that you have the basics covered; you know what you want done! You can afford to have it done! And it's going to be done in a set amount of time! These points are essential in a project, but most of all make sure at the end of it you have the home that you want, not someone else's idea! Make your home suit you!



## Home Decorating

Utter the two words home decorating in a crowd of women and the place will go mad. These two words seem to breathe fire in women's bellies. Most women love the idea of home decorating. When discussed in a crowd, there will likely be all sorts of ideas and tips passed around. For some strange reason the female population enjoy making changes, especially to their homes. The idea of getting rid of the old and bringing in the new gets women all excited.

Many people like change, women and men, boys and girls. Home decorating is a great way to make immediate changes in a person's space. Even slight changes in home décor can make a space seem new and refreshed. Home decorating is an excellent way of taking a tired looking space and transforming it into a bright, happy atmosphere. It is a terrific way to bring people up when they are feeling down.

Home decorating can involve all kinds of different colors, fabrics, furniture, flooring and accessories. Some people spend thousands of dollars decorating their homes while other people use only imagination to make magnificent changes. Home decorating depends on the individual's taste, their intentions and of course their finances. When people have plenty of money to use for home decorating, often they will hire a professional home decorator.

Hiring a professional home decorator is a great opportunity to have a home transformed into a trendy environment. Home decorators are in touch with the latest trends and styles in home decorating. With their talent and experience they are able to take a plain, boring room and transform it into a happening, exciting space to hang out in. With regards to home decorating, if a person desires something totally unimaginable, they might want to hire a professional home decorator.

Home decorating is very important to some people. In fact there are those who make changes in their home each and every season. Most people like to do a little home decorating at Christmas time but there are those who like to jazz up their home in the spring, summer, fall and winter. Using home decorating tips and ideas, people transform their homes to fit the each season.

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When a homeowner is trying to sell their home, a bit of home decorating may increase their chances of success. People viewing a home are often attracted to the cosmetics of the space. Home decorating provides a homeowner the opportunity to give their home a face-lift before putting it on the real estate market. With a few slight changes to the furniture placing in a room, perhaps a calming color on the walls and a bouquet of flowers in a lovely vase on a table, a potential buyer might be won over. When a home is nicely decorated, there is evidence that the homeowner takes pride in their home and cares for it. This would certainly make a good impression on a potential buyer. Just a few little home decorating tricks may be responsible for selling the house.

## Home Improvement Stores

On every high street and every shopping centre there is at least one home improvement store. They cater for everything from nuts and screws to designer bathrooms! They offer a wide range of services and they are reasonably cheap. There are lots of different types of these stores as well, there are the larger more general stores and there are the family based home run type of stores.

The larger stores are able to sell their goods a lot cheaper than the smaller stores as they buy in bulk and that allows the customer to make a much larger saving. People tend to turn to larger home improvement stores when they are shopping for larger items such as fitted kitchens and bedrooms. They sell everything from tiles, glass, hardware, materials and much, much more. Larger home improvement stores are built like large warehouses and are usually staffed by around 100 people or so.

The smaller home improvement stores usually tend to be called DIY (Do it yourself) stores. They don't offer the larger items like the new kitchens and so on, but they offer great quality and great service as they are a family run business and have more of a personal touch with the customer. Their items may be a little bit more expensive than a large store but that is because they cannot buy in bulk as they could never store or sell it on. Many people who use smaller home improvement stores tend to stick with them for all their hardware needs and don't tend to shop around, this is because they love the service and get on great with the shop keepers. These kind of stores have only about 2-5 staff working there, because of the fact the store does not have too much business, unless is it very well known and loved.

If you want a personal touch and a laugh with the store keepers then choose a smaller home improvement store as the larger ones offer rows of tills and workers that are all generic and never seem to have an expression on their face, also the staff don't always know what they are talking about. Smaller stores offer great knowledge as they are owned by actual tradesman and not some big shot executive. I'm not saying that larger home improvement stores are bad, they are not. They are just a bit plain. They may be cheaper but going to a smaller store is well worth the money!



## Tuscan – A Great Home Decorating Idea

If you are having difficulty making a decision about a home decorating theme, Tuscan style is a great home decorating idea. Many homeowners are attracted to the Tuscan style because it combines subtle elegance with simplicity. Using a palette of earthy tones, Tuscan style, which is an Italian country design, is meant to bring the outdoors inside. This great home decorating idea uses distinct materials to help accomplish this goal. Tuscan style is unique as well as beautiful.

When deciding to use a Tuscan theme to decorate your home, you'll be using textures. This home decorating idea implements the use of various textures, such as stone and tile for the flooring. This helps to create a natural atmosphere. Plaster is suggested for the walls to add texture. This would provide an opportunity for you to be creative and even have fun. Tables are often made of stone. Tile mosaics are another recommendation for tables in Tuscan home decorating.

Any home decorating theme that focuses on nature uses wood. Tuscan style makes great use of wood. One example of this is the exposed framework constructed from large wooden beams. This great home decorating idea uses wood in furniture. The goal is to make it look aged in appearance. This can be accomplished using staining techniques. Of course if wanting furniture which looks really old, antique furniture would be the ideal choice.

Tuscan decorating is based on a cultural heritage. By using accessories this Tuscan heritage can be brought out. Accessories that are homemade are common for this home decorating idea. Ceramics are a big thing in Tuscan decorating. Silver frames, silver candlesticks, copper pots; these are all common in Tuscan design. Wine and wine glasses, these are also popular accessories for this great home decorating idea. Large glass jars filled with olives, another great idea for Tuscan decorating. Terra cotta is a popular color when using the Tuscan theme so it might be nice to use terra cotta pots or vases.

Tuscan fabric is in a class of its own. When using this home decorating idea, you will be looking for fabrics made of burlap, abaca fiber, and fibers from the banana tree, savannah cloth and tobacco cloth. These are all fabrics used to create a natural space. These materials are quite versatile and can be used for just about anything in your decorating project. Curtains, drapes,

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blinds, dividers, screens, placemats, floor-mats, these can all be created from the various Tuscan fabrics because of their weight, density and flexibility.

This great home decorating idea makes use good use of colors such as yellow and red. These colors are probably used in tassels or painted beads in tie-backs to accent the drapes. Using yellow and red ribbon to decorate accessories like candlesticks or jugs is common in Tuscan decorating. Any material or accessory which resembles the sea, the earth or the forest, make great additions to Tuscan style home decorating. This great home decorating idea found in Tuscan style, is a good choice for your space. The color, texture, fabric and accessories will create a warm and inviting feeling in any space in your home. This theme of simplicity and nature is a great home decorating idea.

## Mobile Home Decorating

Mobile home decorating presents challenges regarding space. The rooms in mobile homes are small and will require ideas and tips about decorating small spaces. If you have plans for decorating your mobile home, they may need to be compromised somewhat because of the space. However, there are ways to achieve your ideal theme in mobile home decorating.

The first step in mobile home decorating or decorating any small space is to get rid of the clutter. Sort through your things and get rid of any unnecessary or unwanted articles. This will automatically make your space look bigger. Find places to hide things like under table skirts or behind closed doors. Making sure everything is neatly stored and out of view will open up the space. While moving things and clearing away, you may want to rearrange your furniture. Make sure large pieces of furniture are not blocking walkways or entrances. Also place tall pieces of furniture on a wall and not in an open space. Mobile home decorating is about creating space in an area that doesn't have much space.

Choosing color is important in mobile home decorating. In order to create an open, larger atmosphere, you should use light, cool colors. Painting your walls in soft tones of blue or green will provide an open, airy feel. You should also choose colors within the same color family in mobile home decorating. Not only when picking paint colors but also when choosing fabric for curtains or upholstery.

Rooms look larger when they are well-lit. In mobile home decorating it is very important to ensure rooms have plenty of light. Stay away from heavy curtains or drapes for your windows. Use window treatments that are lighter to allow the brightness from the outside in. To provide plenty of light in your rooms, have lamps, track lighting or recessed lighting installed. Small spaces need more light.

There are little tricks for mobile home decorating. Using reflective materials is one trick to make a room appear larger. Using mirrored tiles or a large mirror on a wall will definitely make a room look larger. You may not be fond of mirrored walls but this may be one compromise you'll have to make. Another trick is to use see-through materials. This will make objects look further away. This idea could be used in shower doors or table tops.



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When choosing furniture for mobile home decorating, it is better to pick big pieces. This may sound strange but a few bigger pieces of furniture, is much better than several small pieces of furniture. Using several pieces, the space is cluttered while two or three bigger pieces will allow for more openness in a room. If covering your furniture, be sure to pick plain colors instead of prints, plaids or stripes. If wanting to add something extra, use texture but also in plain neutral tones. Choosing plain colors and neutral colors for light, sheer window treatments, bed skirts and tablecloths will provide an airy feeling as well. Owning a small home like a mobile home can provide problems when decorating but if you follow advice and suggestions for mobile home decorating, your home could be comfortable and feel much larger than it actually is.

## Log Home Decorating

Have you started a home decorating project with a theme in mind or are you still contemplating what you would like to do with your home? There is the Victorian theme or Country Home theme. Even the oriental theme is well-liked. However, there is still another theme to discover. It is the log home/cottage theme.

This theme is quite fun to decorate with. Using it, a person can implement nature type items as well as bring in their favorite items. Should you be the type of person who stays at the home in awful lot then there is no question that you are have started an assortment of treasures you are proud to display.

### **Creating an earthy environment inside your home**

A log cabin is considered a home away from home. Cabins are intended to feel affectionate and pleasant to those who decide to visit. Earthy colors in paint and fabric can come a long way for this type of ambiance in home decorating. This milieu is designed to be happy and convivial. When you add vivacious colors and patterns to pillows, cushions and slip-covers, it enhances and brightens the home. For those who visit, they will feel welcomed from the first moment they enter the door.

No doubt, there are family pictures and handmade ornaments that are quite popular in garnishes for log home decorating. Any kind of object that reflects the family memories that a person has are wonderful for the log home/cottage theme.

### **Log Home/Cottage Theme Furniture - Where to Get Them**

People, who are trying to redecorate their homes, search for used furnishings for their home. Currently, most people have unwanted furniture such as a chair, couch or table that can be used at their log home.

Some of the best places to find used furniture are flea markets and garage sales. It is amazing the type of furniture you can find there to decorate your log home decorating project. The old saying... One's junk is another's treasure.

Old-fashioned wooden furniture pieces are excellent in decorating in log cabin theme. If you want, you can redecorate them to give them a new, vibrant look or use slipcovers in a floral type pattern.

### **Log Cabin Accessories**

Now you have mementos you brought home to use for the cottage theme, now there are plenty accessories that can be used. What kinds of things can you use? How about baskets made from natural materials that can be hung from the ceiling or even put onto the table. Wooden bowls, tin pots that have been galvanized, buckets old jars or jugs. There are so many, it really is countless. It really is not hard to make a feeling of relief and luxury. Using things that are handmade make excellent add-ons to the decorating.

### **Log Cabin Flooring**

When people are choosing floors for their home, some natural woods that come to mind are: birch, cedar or pine. This are wonderful choices and can be left in the natural form, which allows for it to age and be authentic looking. There are many gorgeous wood stains to apply on the floor that will not only accent it but also protect it.

What also goes well with these floorings are area rugs. They can make the space feel cozy particularly if they are laid out on the wooden floor.

While this type of decorating project may never be done, there is always something that can be respected and cherished in the cottage/log cabin.



## Country Home Decorating

When you find yourself wanting to redecorate your home, there are many styles and themes to choose from that can make a person go crazy trying to decide what to go with.

A popular theme many people go with is the country home decorating theme. It is popular because it has an overall inviting and friendly atmosphere. It is enjoyed by many people who visit as well as live in the home because it stands as a warm environment.

Yet, with any home decorating project, the homeowner must decide first if they want to use the country home decorating for their decor throughout the home or only in one room or two. Some do choose it for throughout the home while others want to focus it on a particular setting like a kitchen and dining room.

### **Country Colors**

This type of theme combines colors with which are clean and bright with the country furniture and its accessories. When you choose this style for your home, go with shades of light to medium colors of white, pink, green and brown. These are great colors for this style. It gives the home a real rustic feeling. You can apply and add stencil drawings of flowers, plants, fruits or vegetables to newly painted walls. This should be done by someone with experience. Wall borders can be used and are often used in the country home setting. While this is a great pattern to use, be sure these patterns do not clash with anything else.

### **Country Flooring**

Wood or rather natural wood should be used to keep up with the rustic theme. When redoing the floor, natural wood is a wonderful choice but using it throughout a big area can cost lots of money. Should you want to go with a cheaper alternative and still give your floors a country home look, try using a carpet that has a light shade to it or laminate your floor. Other styles can be flagstone or tile. However, if the homeowner wants to get really creative, decorating their floors with stencil or creating patterns is a viable option.

Another great way to spice up the home is to utilize area rugs. Rugs that have an authentic look to them generate an affectionate and fuzzy feeling. Meanwhile, hooked, quilted or even braided rugs do make wonderful additions to the country home styled floor.

### **Country Furniture**

Remember this is a country setting, so choosing the right kind of furniture to match this theme, is a must. A few suggestions are using either light wood or wicker furniture. These furniture types can reflect the nature's beauty and if the homeowner wants to use fabric to accent their furniture they can do so by using floral patterns and checkered designs to give that authentic look.

### **Simplicity Works For Country Themes**

When you are accessorizing your space, it always adds beauty and wonder to the home. Choosing what accessories will go into your home is imperative to stick with theme. Such as photos going in wooden frames, plain mirrors, plants and scented candles. These can spruce up the decorating. Lace or shutters can give window treatments such as a cozy feeling. This theme can be fun and exciting to accomplish.

This main thing to remember is not to go overboard. Too many patterns will conflict and eliminate the space amount in a room. The country home decorating designed for a soothing and gracious environment, which is meant to be inviting and cozy. This atmosphere, once it's finished, is liable to grab a few compliment. Country Home decorating is just one of many styles.

## Free Home Decorating Ideas

When you are planning home improvements, you appreciate comments and ideas. You know you have your own ideas with the way you want your home to look. However, it is fastidious to pay attention to others' ideas about the new décor and it is good idea to have another plan in case your first one fails.

No doubt, there are home decorating ideas that have yet to be explored. Since ideas and trends change, people are often changing their mind about their home decorating. So checking these out, could give "birth" to your new plan for the home.

Should you have access to free decorating ideas, this can be a good gift. Whether you know it or not, you have access to these decorating tips every day. Suppose you have an appointment at the doctor's office, often times, there are home improvement magazines that have a home decorating section. In it, something catches your eye. This magazine offers its readers tips and techniques on home decorating.

Major stores like Sears, Zellers, IKEA and many more offer customers catalogs with pictures or illustrations that have been fully decorated. By browsing these, a person can get ideas from it.

More ideas, that can hit you, can happen when you visit a local furniture or department store. These stores have displays that get changed on a regular basis to show new trendy home styles.

The window in front of a furniture store is usually a wonderful place to catch ideas for beautifully arranged furniture and home décor. Window displays are often thought of as free decorating tips for people.

With technology advances, the Internet has become a wonderful source for free decorating ideas. There are plenty of websites that offer decorating ideas.

Some sites go in depth on various decorating designs and give people thousands of ideas on how to style your home. They even offer ways for you to achieve those styles you are seeking to



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fill your home with. Some even do step-by-step directives for the person who wants to do a do it yourself renovation.

This is your chance to create spaces and rooms which are normally decorated by those professionally employed in interior decorating. By the using these free decorating ideas, a person is able to transform their home into something they were only dreaming off at one time. Even as an inexperienced interior designer, you could be surprised by their design.

No doubt that decorating a home is an exciting activity. It requires plenty of planning but the final result is worth all the issues that come with redecorating. You'll be able to look at the wonderful changes that were made and feel a sense of relief and elation that the changes were made using free tool guides.

Should you want to do another home improvement job, you can use those ideas with much more added confidence than before. Besides, if the ideas helped you once before, then it should happen again, right?

When your friends come over, they'll be wondering how you got such a wonderful style when you did not use a home interior designer. Won't they get a kick out of how the ideas just came to you?

## Helpful Home Decorating Tips

What is the most important thing a person needs to do before they attempt to do a home decorating project? If you said to sit down and write/type out what their goals and ideas are, this would be correct. This is no doubt tip number one!

Many people make this mistake of not having a plan, they are left to their confusion and frustration. This makes the whole experience, which should be fun and exciting, to be aggravating.

Whether you know it or not, there are many ideas and details that need to be worked out. Such as which... the theme of your home. What do you plan on using as a theme? Do you want the cottage look, the Victorian look, perhaps you want an oriental look or even a post modern Roman look. Whatever you decide, it's best to work this theme out on the materials and the spaces to be created or redecorated.

A mistake anyone can make is waking up one morning and going, "I want to redecorate my bedroom today." This is such a nice thought and wouldn't it be nice if it could be done like that? However, without the forethought of planning, it is likely the project would be much more than they are willing to spend. Due to this reason, home decorating tips are quite helpful.

What is the next step after you hmmm'ed and ahhh'ed about the project and came up with your ideas and what you saw for the goals? Next needs to be your budget. How much are you willing to spend to redecorate? How much can you actually afford without going totally broke? If you desire to make changes to your entire house, then it is suggested you set aside a great amount of money for these changes.

Why is this? There are always hidden costs when you make large home improvements. It would seem that once you begin your decorating, that the little things you did not count on just jump out at you. So, tip number two is have a budget. It is a wise thing to do when redecorating your home whether it be the entire house or just one to two rooms to have a budget amount and try to stick with it.

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Tip number three is pick your theme and stick with it. Okay, so you have budget, you have your goals, now it's time to pick a theme you wish to see created in your home. First, look over different themes and find one that is based upon what you like or perhaps jointly as a couple (should you be married) find what works for your home.

Some things such as the country theme welcomes visitors in aria of friendliness and warmth while a more modern theme explodes loud and alive, saying here I am, look at me! Do not forget that whatever theme you choose should not be picked on a whim, it is one you are bound to use for quite some time.

Now that you have made a final decision on how you want to decorate your home, it's time for the next tip - sketch your plan out on paper. Using a diagram for the area you want to decorate, sketch it out how you want it to look.

Remember to consider the size, your time to be spent on rearranging and arranging and through your drawing, place these items out in the space. Use your imagination and the sketch to guide you toward the goal you set in the beginning. One final tip - aim to accent your home.

## **Why Pay For Home Improvement When You Can Do It Yourself?**

Many people opt to do home improvements themselves because consumer confidence has shaken in the building and construction industry. Well, why not? All it takes is a little know how combined with some creativity, spunk and time and people are able to do their home improvement.

### **Why are homeowners doing their own home improvement projects?**

The construction industry is failing to employ workers who have experience in the home maintenance or home improvement field. Due to this issue, many homeowners find that the job is less than satisfactory for services paid for or paying for services upfront that never get completed or paying for services that were not agreed upon in the first place.

### **So if you don't want to rely on someone else's schedule and time to fix up your home, why not do a little home construction yourself?**

One way to develop your home is to enhance its existing concrete surfaces by using acid stains, acrylic stains, epoxy paints and scoring techniques.

Do you want to do something different to your home's dreary concrete? If so, do it yourself homeowners can give their patio, driveway, garage that wonderful, vibrant new look you are seeking to get.

Most people know that decorative construction concrete work is perhaps two to three times more than normal concrete. This means that many people do not have the funds for themselves or construction workers to go the untraditional route of concrete.

**However, you don't have to pay tradesmen lots of money to get your decorative concrete style that would like to have. How is this you may ask?**

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An ever-increasing coloring surface for concrete is the acid based concrete, which chemically reacts to the material, which produces permanent color that looks like marble. This design often resembles a natural and elegant looking surface.

An alternative to used acid stains is used the water based ones. Because of less toxicity in the mix, this is much more homeowner friendly. These stains do not react with concrete, rather they are immersed into surface pores, which then acts like a dye. Should you choose this style, there are numerous colors to pick from.

Should you want to try styles beyond the basics of concrete staining, then use scoring techniques that can create patterns on surfaces.

Do you have tile floor in your home? Did you know you could make your concrete outside have that same style? Use your imagination and with an angle grinder with its four inches grinding or cutting wheel, starting creating your "tile" concrete.

With scoring, drawing the pattern on the concrete first is vital. This is due to the fact that scoring, once etched in, cannot be reversed.

Epoxy paint, due to their durability and chemical spill resistance, make excellent coating on basement and garage floors. They are also very nice in their final finish and appearance.

Changing your concrete's appearance is not that hard of a job. In fact, all it takes is preparation. Epoxy paints now come in water base form and can be used for indoor projects. It's about \$200 in materials for a 400 square foot garage and can be done without a home contractor.

As you can see, save your money when you suspect you can cut your costs. With some time, some reading of instructions and a bit of work, anyone who wants to turn their drab, boring concrete into a work of art can.

Should someone ask you how much you spent on your new concrete look, you can tell them that you paid next to nothing on a do it yourself home project.



## Home Improvement TV Show

There are several television channels that offer hundreds in home improvement shows. Each show does a different kind of format with many different styles.

Some of these are arts and crafts channels while others are focused on home makeover shows. The Discovery Channel offers many types of home improvement shows which are very educational though they can be a bit on the dull side.

To figure out which of these would suit you best, continue reading the article and find out below.

### **Home Improvement Craft Television Shows**

- These types of shows are intended for older audiences who have interests in woodworking and joinery. They often have detailed instructions regarding the restoration and creation of new things that can be implemented to restore your home.

These ideas can lead to even more ideas that can lead the viewer to design new things for their home they never would imagined if they had not watched these kinds of shows.

Air shows are challenge type of shows in which two teams compete for success and vie for the best craft. Whoever creates the better craft wins the honor (show). Prizes for winning can vary but most often there are no prizes for winning the competition.

### **Air shows can be very boring but informative too.**

Makeover improvement shows will typically feature certain rooms that focus on bathrooms, dining rooms, sitting rooms and sleeping bedrooms. These rooms can be redone completely... walls and all.

Designer teams are brought in while the wife is gone on a voyage for a small time. Designers hurry to work on the room and then as a surprise, she returns to all kinds of different things.

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The shows inform others how they can accent their home for a low cost and minimal effort. Sometimes an entire house is redone and then featured on the show.

Garden shows are done in this format. While the homeowners are gone, friends of the couple arrange the garden team to spruce up the flower beds and gardens.

These home improvement shows can be aimed toward all viewers, young and old. It gives them an edge for helpful tips. With some much needed insight, homeowners can make their own magnificent home without spending all their hard earned money.

Their popularity have seen a rise in the kind of shows that come out on improvement channels. Since the teams and producers put the home improvement discussion in layman's terms, anyone can understand how to do a project they are interested in doing themselves.

## Home Improvement Magazine

Everywhere you look, in every single grocery store with magazines and in every news agents stand, there are many home improvement magazines.

The magazines are available for many projects and to give many ideas to those who are thinking about doing something more to their home. Those magazines are used as a guidance to get the most out of a person's budget among other factors that need to come into consideration while redecorating your home or improving it.

Home improvement magazines are not only filled with outstanding ideas for redecorating and restyling of the home but showcase wonderful products and stores that have the kinds of things a person is interested in redecorating in. These items can be a bit pricey but well worth taking a look at.

When people redecorate or improve on their home, they are doing it because they want a home they love to live in. They see their home as a special dwelling that needs to be shared with the world. No doubt, home improvement makes all this happen, easily and affordably.

How do you choose a home improvement magazine? The best way to do is to find one that is of your taste. Should you be the arts and crafts type, choose a magazine that has helpful tips that can encourage and build upon your ideas for the home improvement. For females, there are more feminine magazines like home styling.

These give plenty of ideas and have designs that are on the cutting edge which can make your neighbors jealous by having the prettiest house on the block. You can take the time to spice up your home, being the envy of friends and neighbors.

When you settle on a magazine, be sure to flip through it to be sure it has the style you want. Of course, you can buy several magazines and get many ideas, then mix them together and find one that works for your home, causing it to stand out for the better in your neighborhood.

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There are many ways to get home improvement and decoration ideas. Using magazines that offer a pictorial view can help you settle on what you do like and what you don't.

## Decorating Your Home For Christmas

Christmas is an extremely busy time of year. By the time you get your shopping done, gifts wrapped and your cookies and cakes baked, it's likely you don't have the energy left to put into extravagant decorating. Although less than energetic, you still want your home decorated for Christmas. After all, Christmas is just not the same without lights and decorations.

Decorating your home for Christmas doesn't have to be stressful. There are many things you can do and items you can use to dress up your home for this wonderful season. One suggestion when decorating your home for Christmas is using ribbon. If you have a decorating theme for Christmas, regarding color, choose ribbon to correspond with your theme. You can tie ribbons to all sorts of items in your home such as chair backs, wreathes, basket handles, stair railings and even doorknobs. Ribbons and bows are very festive. A good idea is to choose ribbon which can be easily untied and retied. This way you can reuse the ribbon another Christmas season.

Using holiday tableware is nice when decorating your home for Christmas. Search your home for anything Christmas, plates, bowls, mugs, glasses, any piece of tableware that has a Christmas theme. Make sure to use these items each and every meal, every day throughout the Christmas season. Another good idea is to buy a few pieces each year. In time you'll have enough tableware to serve the entire community.

Lighting is important when decorating your home for Christmas. During the month of December turn off your lights. Make use of your candles in every room of your home. Place candles on the dining table, on the coffee and end tables in the living room and perhaps place a nice scented pillar candle in the bathroom. Don't just put them there for decorations but also make sure to light them each night. If you have a fireplace, make sure to light it and enjoy it. A fireplace creates a cozy atmosphere which is nice when guests are visiting.

Decorating your home for Christmas should always include a Christmas tree. After decorating the tree with your homemade ornaments and strung popcorn, use the leftover branches to make arrangements for your home. Put the greens in a basket or bowl, add pinecones, bows and ornaments. Use the branches to make swags to hang over doors throughout your home. Take the evergreen sprigs and place them around your home, on windows, on a bookcase shelf or on

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a ledge. Evergreen branches and sprigs certainly reflect Christmas. Not only do they look nice but they spread a lovely aroma throughout the home.

Christmas is a time for celebrating. It's a time to pull out all the stops. Snow is always nice for Christmas. When decorating your home for Christmas, why not use snow, artificial snow to add a sparkle to your home. Sprinkle it on the dining table, the hutch or the fireplace. Use ornaments which reflect light and hang them around your home, from doors or even indoor trees and plants. This will definitely look dazzling at night as the candle light flickers off the ornaments. Decorating your home for Christmas shouldn't be a dreadful task but a delightful experience. One thing to remember when decorating your home for Christmas is not to over-think your plan. Keep it simple because simplicity is elegant and beautiful.



## Home & Garden Decorating

Home and garden decorating is a hot topic. This is evident in television programming. Every second television show is related to decorating your home and garden. Programs such as The Decorating Challenge, Curb Appeal and The House Doctor are great examples of home and garden decorating shows. These programs are quite interesting and quite helpful for people who are looking for ideas to make changes to their home and garden. These shows take everyday living spaces and transform them into beautiful, inviting places. Since these programs generally work with a budget, they help people realize that home and garden decorating can be accomplished without going to great expense. They also demonstrate that even small changes can make an enormous difference in home and garden decorating.

Home and garden decorating involves anything, materials, paint, fabric, accessories; items that can be used to make decorative improvements to a home or garden. When considering making changes around the house or in the back garden, some people may feel intimidated because they aren't creative nor do they have any crafty skills. Home and gardening programs, magazines, books and catalogs, show homeowners that it isn't necessary to be a skilled individual to make home and garden decorating changes. These resources teach people that simple, basic changes and additions can transform a space, either home or garden, into something completely different and beautiful.

Many homeowners and decorators decorate so that the home and garden compliment each other. When people have beautiful gardens, they often like to have that beauty brought into their living space. One easy way to accomplish this is to display, fresh-cut flowers from the garden, throughout the home. Flowers provide a lovely, fresh scent and add color to any space. When home and garden decorating, perhaps a homeowner might like to bring the country theme in their home, out into their garden. A patio could easily be decorated to portray country home decorating. This would allow people to enjoy the warmth and coziness of country decorating both inside and outside the home.

There are many home and garden decorating ideas. A person could take a drive around town and find details of other houses and gardens which interest them. They can then take these ideas back to their own home and garden. Window boxes make lovely decorations for any

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home. These decorations, filled with seasonal flowers, can be enjoyed both inside and outside the home.

Home and garden decorating can add hours of fun to your day. Since it's your space anything, that interests you, goes. If you're a person who doesn't like clutter, redefining your property may be as simple as removing unwanted items from your home or cutting down overgrown trees from your garden. You'd be surprised at the difference this could make in your home and garden decorating plans. A fresh coat of paint on the interior or the exterior of your house will certainly be an improvement. Replacing the wooden planks on a patio and finishing them with a rich stain would definitely compliment your garden as well as your home. There are many home and garden decorating ideas. When you're out with a group of friends, why not ask for home and garden decorating suggestions. Once you begin your decorating project, you'll discover all sorts of techniques to make improvements to your home and garden.

## Home Decorating Catalogs

Plenty homeowners use home decorating catalogs to order items to make improvements to their home or to get home decorating ideas. Home decorating catalogs usually provide photos of complete rooms and the opportunity to purchase any or all of the items used to create the room. For people who are not creative, these catalogs are great resources for decorating tips for their home. If money is not a problem, they could buy everything featured in the home decorating catalog to create the exact same room in their own home.

Home decorating catalogs are normally made available by major department stores, building centers and home décor shops. These stores provide customers the option of visiting the store to purchase merchandise, some will provide a delivery service or mail service and others have online home decorating catalogs available to shop from. Home decorating catalogs are published for the benefit of the customer. These publications entice people to visit the stores hopefully with the intention to buy. Many stores send their home decorating catalogs to customer through the mail. Providing information regarding location and telephone numbers, people can easily access their stores.

People can get a mental image of what their space could look like by looking at the vivid pictures in home decorating catalogs. These books provide hours of enjoyment for people who are fascinated with new trends in home decorating. Providing examples of new colors and new accessories, home decorating catalogs offer people an opportunity to stay in touch with fashion and even explore new possibilities for their space.

Home decorating is usually divided into different categories regarding style. Some of these styles or themes include country, French country, English country, modern, traditional, Oriental, Victorian and old world. Each of these themes would have an individual section in home decorating catalogs. These individual sections focus on furniture, color, fabric and accessories which relate to the theme. If a homeowner was interested in changing the theme in their home from country to Oriental, browsing through home decorating catalogs would provide useful information and an opportunity to purchase items to help transform their home.

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Online home decorating catalogs provide people an even better opportunity to look at available merchandise. The Internet, with its capabilities is equipped to provide enhanced images. With this in mind, a person would be able to get a clearer image of the items in an online home decorating catalog. Not only would online home decorating catalogs provide better images but they are very convenient. Online shopping is quickly catching on in society today. More and more people are taking advantage of the convenience offered through shopping online. Without leaving the comfort of home, a person can spend hours browsing online home decorating catalogs. If they find an item or group of items they'd like to purchase, they can do so online. With methods of payment such as credit card, PayPal or C.O.D., people can order what they need or want from online home decorating catalogs. Home decorating catalogs, either online or a publication, provide people with access to everything they need to improve a room or their entire home.

## Using A Home Decorating Catalog

There are thousands of items to choose from when changing or improving your home décor. Some people are certain of what they want while others need help making a decision. Using a home decorating catalog would definitely help deciding what to use to make improvements to your home décor. In fact a home decorating catalog will likely offer so many choices, choosing a theme shouldn't be a problem.

A home decorating catalog is a great place to view photos of the various decorating themes available such as Mediterranean, Traditional, Primitive, French Country or Contemporary, just to name a few. With bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, dining rooms and living rooms featured in the home decorating catalog, you are given the perfect opportunity to see exactly what these themes are all about. Chances are, while browsing a home decorating catalog, something will jump off the page at you. There'll definitely be a room or space that interests you and provides inspiration for your home decorating project.

Using a home decorating catalog can be quite easy nowadays with access to the Internet. Many home décor stores and businesses use the Internet to advertise their products. This is great news for you since finding the theme and materials you need for your project is as easy as connecting to the Internet. Once connected to the Internet, you'll be able to view the numerous home decorating catalogs made available for your convenience. You won't have to suffer through long line-ups at the department store in town or go looking for an item in a flyer only to find it isn't in stock. The online home decorating catalog website is equipped to provide information regarding what's available and what's not. There's also no problem finding a sales clerk when using an online home decorating catalog. That can be very frustrating if you are shopping at a home décor store in your area. No line-ups, no waiting and no disappointments; three great reasons to use a home decorating catalog online.

Many online home decorating businesses will mail out copies of their home decorating catalog. This is great too because it gives you a chance to show others the items which interest you and get their opinion. Everyone in the family can have time to mull over your ideas for the home decorating project. Although an online business might send you out their home decorating catalog, you'll still have the opportunity to buy directly from them. Chances are you'll be given

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the option of either ordering over the telephone or ordering online. Using payment methods like credit cards, PayPal and C.O.D., you'll be able to order any product from the home decorating catalog and have it delivered right to your door.

You started out being unsure regarding decorating design. By using a home decorating catalog, you not only made your decision, you were capable of choosing flooring, paint colors, furniture and accessories for your space. Using a home decorating catalog, you were able to take those choices and turn them into orders, which eventually became realistic. Using a home decorating catalog, you probably achieved much more than you thought or imagined for your home decorating project.



## Online Home Decorating Catalogues

It is said that home decorating is a necessity but rather it should be exciting. There are many decorating styles to choose from with many colors with many choices of furniture and accessories.

When you choose to renovate the home, this is the time to change the home décor and be refreshing while doing it. What is the point behind decorating? Whether it is needed or not, improving your space can create an atmosphere that to which you can be happy with and enjoy.

How do you decide what kind of theme to have for your home? There are so many to choose from. Getting help from magazines or even an online catalog can give you some ideas, which can lead you to decide what would be ideal for your living space.

Home decorating catalogs found online work because you do not have to leave your home. This can leave you to search hours upon hours for ideas while searching the numerous amounts of databases found on the Internet.

You may need to narrow down the search to a particular item since there are so many online decorating catalogs. Should you look to redecorate only furniture, then focus on those sites. If you are looking to get a contemporary or even an oriental look to your home, then find catalogs that specialize in those types of formats. There are catalogs for flooring, lighting, paint and any other item you choose as a decorating project.

The Internet is your own personal playground when it comes to being able to shop worldwide. No department store could ever showcase the comprehensiveness the Internet allows for.

If you should pick items from an online home decorating catalog, it provides for you an opportunity to search for the unique items to decorate your home with.

A wonderful example showcasing the benefits of using online catalogs from other parts of the world is the Tuscan design. This is a theme parted from the Italian heritage. Finding the accessories or fabric to fit the theme may entice you to shop from that catalog.

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This is especially true if you want this theme but live in the United States. The chance that you will travel to Italy to look for these shops is not very likely. With the web, you can get these items right from your home computer. You can order any number of items including a terracotta jug or silver candlesticks that can be shipped anywhere.

How can you access this type of theme to get to your home. By using the Internet and search engines of Google, Yahoo and many others, anyone can get these catalogs from the long, long list that are posted. Should you desire a particular one, narrow the search to that.

Search engines come equipped with the ability to find anything and everything you could search for. Should you locate what you are seeking, pat yourself on the back and spend some time browsing for what you want from the online home decorating catalog.

So whether you want to accent your home in an ocean setting of blue and white or take up the Victorian era with its many interesting and well done design or even still... the more famous Oriental design that many people have fallen for, looking it up in a home catalog design book based on the Internet can give people many, many ideas.

## Home Decorating Magazines

You know your house needs improvements. You know you need to redecorate. You can't seem to come up with ideas for decorating your home. You need inspiration. Where do you go for help? One great source of home decorating ideas and inspiration is home decorating magazines. These publications provide a look into the world of home decorating and offer suggestions and tips to help you decorate your home. Home decorating magazines provide pictures of homes and rooms that were remodeled which may inspire you to recreate that space in your very own home.

There are many home decorating magazines available. Most of these magazines not only provide pictures and ideas but also offers the customer an opportunity to buy directly from them items you like in their magazine. Many magazines are advertised on the Internet. With websites displaying their ideas and pictures, you can browse these sites in your search for a decorating style. These online magazines will likely offer you a chance to buy directly from them via the Internet.

Home decorating magazines are constantly in circulation. Some of the popular home decorating magazines are listed here.

\* Traditional Home – This magazine has its main focus on traditional décor and historical homes. Articles are written that allow you to visit historic places, gathering ideas and tips for decorating a traditional home. This home decorating magazine offers information on furniture, window treatments and color schemes.

\* Country Living – This is a magazine which is published monthly and offers ideas about country décor, crafts, and antiques. It also provides tips for traditional cooking. This home decorating magazine provides details regarding furniture, window treatments, fireplaces and historic colors.

\* Elle Décor – This home decorating magazine is published semi-monthly. It is a magazine dedicated to focusing on modern design with a French influence. Focusing on luxury living, furniture style and planning your room, this magazine intends to offer the average homeowner ideas and tips to achieve this terrific style for their homes.

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\* Better Homes & Gardens – This popular magazine provides the reader with information about various subjects relating to the homeowner and their family. This information includes ideas for home décor as well as garden decorating. Better Homes & Gardens also publishes a seasonal magazine which focuses on décor with a lot of information regarding specific projects.

\* Metropolitan Home – Published six times a year, this home decorating magazine provides details about renovating and designing modern urban homes. This magazine focuses on contemporary design and current trends. It offers the reader information regarding transforming a traditional home or space into a modern, contemporary environment.

These home decorating magazines are great sources of inspiration if you are having difficulty coming up with ideas and techniques for your home. Providing detailed information and vivid photos, these home decorating magazines offer you instructions and often step-by-step directions to achieve the desired look. Each of these magazines also offers you, the customer an opportunity to buy directly from them. This can make your job so much easier if you see a room or space in the magazine that you like. Buying directly from them, you have a chance to recreate that beautiful space in your home.

## Home Decorating Pictures

The quote, “a picture is worth a thousand words” is true for many, many situations. This famous quote even applies to home decorating. Many people draw their inspiration for their decorating projects from home decorating pictures. It’s difficult to visualize a room decorated using the various design themes. You may think the French Country style is perfect for your kitchen but when you actually see this style used in home decorating pictures, you may change your mind. Contemporary style is hot nowadays with its trendy accessories, fabric and furniture but is it for your home? Browsing home decorating pictures of contemporary design will help you decide whether it’s for your home or not. Tuscan design sounds beautiful when you read about it in magazines and books but until you see those home decorating pictures using Tuscan design, you can’t be sure if it would work in your home.

Home decorating pictures are very beneficial when making plans to decorate both the interior and exterior of your home. Pictures either confirm your visions or provide a totally different reality. Home decorating pictures offer you an opportunity to browse and pick a design that best suits you and your home. There are so many designs to choose from, some you’ve probably never heard of. Current home decorating pictures offer you a chance to view all of the latest trends in home decorating for each and every room in your home.

Home decorating pictures portray homes and spaces that often seem out of the realm of possibility for you and your home. Because these spaces are so elegantly decorated and look so perfect and professional, you may assume it cannot be achieved in your space. This is not true. Home decorating pictures give you the finished product, the end result of much planning and work. Home decorating is a process and you too can work through this process to create rooms similar to those in the home decorating pictures. With the thousands of resources available to homeowners today, there is no reason you cannot have an elegant dining room just like the one you saw in home decorating pictures.

There are so many magazines, catalogues, books and websites related to interior home decorating. These resources provide many useful tools and offer great advice for decorating your home. When you begin your planning, you can’t imagine your space will resemble those in the home decorating pictures. The great news is – it certainly can. Using home decorating

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pictures as guides for your planning, you can choose colors, furnishings and accessories to improve your space and make it picture perfect. In home decorating, almost anything is achievable if you are willing to be open-minded and accept advice. Many home decorating pictures display rooms in bold colors that you just can't imagine using in your home. This is when you have to relax and go out on a limb. In order to get that picture perfect room, you may need to compromise your normal methods of decorating. However if you definitely want the bathroom in the home decorating pictures, you'll need to put away those normal habits and adopt brand new ones.



## Decorating Your Home Gym

When homeowners want to get creative, they are famous for the renovations and redecorations on their home. Should there be a room in their home that they feel needs a new look, they begin looking at decorating magazines and color paints. It will not matter which room they want to redo: a bedroom, the kitchen, the bathroom and even a home gym. Home decorating or even redecorating in any area of the home can make overall improvements.

Redoing a home gym is usually not at the top of any homeowner's list but it should add some life to the house and be a motivator for energy and exercising.

So if you are thinking about putting a gym in your home, you should mull over what the purpose behind this room would be. Typically a home gym is a place to exercise, to work-out and to renew your batteries.

What else is this area good for? It should be a motivational outlet and have lively people using it. With the goals you have set, the gym room should spice up the space you set forth. Add some jive to the environment and give your gym room some special attention.

While redecoration of a regular room takes some special thought and a wild imagination, it is usually fun to do. However, if the gym room is not your preferred room or you are just not an active person, fascinated with the equipment in the area, then this redecoration project won't be as fun like it would be in your living room or bedroom.

The worst part is if you are having issues coming up with redecorating ideas. If this should be the case (and many times, it is), then it is time to seek advice from an interior designer or start looking at some home decorating catalogs to get some thoughts.

### **Gym Room Themes**

Like any other home decorating task, start off by putting together a theme. While you may feel this is easy, when you do not like the room, it isn't quite that simple. It's not like you can put a

big, fancy country chair and using all types of colors to make them mesh together. No, bright colors and lots of lighting can improve the room's environment. This puts energy into the room.

What kind of theme will you use? It really does work best but use a modern theme for the room. Use vibrant, dramatic colors with up-to-the-minute furniture. This makes the room feel more energetic.

### **Adding Accessories to the Gym Room**

Should you wish to have accessories added to the room, then do not use pretty flowers and all your fancy ornaments to spruce it up. A gym is a place of working out where you can prove your strength. No need for the gym to be quiet and serene when it should be pumping iron and loud music.

### **So what would make a wonderful addition to this room?**

Although many people have watches, having a clock makes work-outs go much easier and smoother. When people work out, they will time themselves and what they've done so far. It's also important that a stereo system or small boom box be added to the room. You can even add a television to give you a distraction from the workout. When you are focused on something else, the exercise routine seems to go by faster.

Should you feel uneasy about making this change, look at catalogs for help even if it is on the Internet. You'd be surprised by what you can accomplish.

## Interior Decorating Plans for your Home Bar

Your home bar is an area that is enjoyed by you as well as those who visit your home. Although a home bar is not essential in a home, it is a great addition to any space. If intending to use this space often, interior decorating plans for your home bar are important. Finding techniques and ideas to make this space welcoming and enjoyable would be a great asset.

Depending on the general theme of your home décor, you might want to use similar ideas and techniques in interior decorating plans for your home bar. However, it isn't necessary to stick with the same theme. You can easily use different design themes throughout your home. Since your home bar is a place to sit back and relax, you might want to pick calming colors such as blues and greens. These colors provide a soothing and relaxing atmosphere.

When picking furniture in interior decorating plans for your home bar, you'll definitely need bar stools, There are all sorts of bar stools to choose from. There's a standard wooden bar stool which is practical since it matches nearly any design style. There are fancier stools with upholstery done in different color leathers. Some bar stools are able to swivel and others are stationary. This decision in your interior decorating plans for your home bar should probably be based on comfort since this space is used for socializing.

Interior decorating plans for your home bar ought to include accessories that are entertaining such as music. A stereo system would certainly make your home bar a big success. People like to listen to music when sitting and chatting. If your budget will allow it, perhaps you could include a small television in interior decorating plans for your home bar. It would be a nice spot to sit, have refreshments and watch the football or hockey game.

Obviously your home bar will require beverages of some kind. Your interior decorating plans for your home bar must include a cooler or bar refrigerator in order to keep the drinks cold. Many people install a bar sink in their home bar. This is a convenience since it eliminates the need to bring glassware back and forth to the kitchen to wash. Of course you will need glassware included in your interior decorating plans for your home bar. Choosing different sizes and styles of glasses would be a good idea since not everyone will require the same type. There are many

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little details you could include in your interior decorating plans for your bar. Keeping with the color scheme you might pick coasters and other accessories to match.

Lighting is very important when making interior decorating plans for your home bar. There are different choices of lighting such as track-lighting and recess lighting for example. Many people use recess lighting in their home bars. This is a neat and tidy method of installing lighting. Having the lights installed in the home bar is popular. Lighting that can be adjusted up or down is also a good idea for your home bar. If entertaining a big crowd you may want the lights up but if sitting relaxing alone, you may enjoy a quieter and dimmer atmosphere.

## Home Improvement Software

Computers play a large role in people's lives. So why not in the home improvement aspect of it? There are tons of computer programs that do massive improvement projects. They lean towards organizations skills, planning and going over what you need.

Home improvement projects cannot be done spur of the moment. Rather, they must be thought out methodically and then carried out. Professionals should always be consulted when doing a home improvement design. This means extra money is shelled out.

The software is usually reasonably priced. Yet, like anything else that is in this field, the more you spend, the more ideas and things you will get on the software. Do some checking between software programs and see what is to your liking.

The software can come in the form of DVDs and CDs. Using the computer, they can show you what you want done from an architect's view. They will offer tools that can help you to build buildings and other areas within your home. It is a basic guide to more ideas that can be done. It is also telling you about how much time is involved with it and what you can aspect over all.

It will not show you, however, the costs behind the improvement. This is when you will speak to contractors about the type of material they would involve and their labor charges. Get several estimates if possible and check out the business before settling on a contractor.

The software is far from easy to use. Either you need to be an expert yourself, hire an expert and just automatically know how to use the software since it can be quite confusing. Like anything else... once you get the hang of it, it's like you have always done it.

The software is fitting and helpful in any huge home improvement project as long as it used correctly. It is not to play with. Architects and other home improvement specialists use it and can get it at a reasonable price. For the common folk, the software is more expensive.

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The software will allow some experimentation with different methods, coming up with different solutions. Should you want to take down a wall in a bedroom, it will allow you to choose which of the different ways to do this.

To use this software, be sure to play out every scenario and the challenges that is presented and overcome them. This way you are not met with any surprises along the way when you are doing the actual work. It's never good to leave a job half way done because your plan failed to work.

## Choosing Home Decorating Fabric

When you buy or rent a place to live, you begin to get ideas of how the place can look after you move in. One of the most important parts of renting/buying home is home decorating.

### **Picking a Theme**

What is the most important part of home decorating? It's choosing home decorating fabric. First thing you need to do is pick a theme and stick with it. The kind of themes you can have are: Oriental, Modern and Victorian. Your choice of fabric can really influence what type of theme you will end up with.

If you do want a particular theme, do some research into it before you walk into the fabric store and start buying all kinds of things. The data can be found in home decorating magazines and books as well as home decorating sites on the Internet.

### **How to do a Victorian Theme -**

Should you decide on using the Victorian theme in your home decoration project, decide if you will do it for one room or throughout the house. Remember that a Victorian theme tends to be extravagant and feminine.

Choose a fabric from this era that will greatly resemble those that may have been used in the Victorian age. The fabric for this theme is made from heavy materials especially for bedding and curtains. What is the popular fabric choices for this era? Velvet and Brocade are the favorites that can be accented with ribbons, bows, face and beads which can be used as trims.

### **How to have a Modern Era Theme -**

If you choose to use the modern theme to decorate your home, going with bold and vibrant colors works best. This theme works best with big spacious rooms that have an open concept. Your attention should be focused on the details in the room that include the bold fabrics.



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These fabrics are usually used on throw pillows, slip covers and curtains. These typically stand out in a room that has light to cool colors that is spacious. With this type of theme, it is sure to be noticed.

It seems this oriental theme is quite popular. It has many unique designs that can be accessorized with Chinese dragons, elephants, fans and screens along with glass cases with oriental flower designs. No doubt, these make a room worth looking at and interesting.

What kind of colors would go great with the oriental theme? Colors you can use are coral, red, and ivory and jade, although the most used oriental theme is the silk fabric in either coral or red colors. What furniture would work well with this theme? Dark, wood furniture accents the home very well.

### **Where to find decorating fabrics**

There are many places to shop for fabrics whether for a home or office. Should you want to buy slipcovers, cushions or curtains already made many department stores like Wall-mart have these.

Other stores like Hobby Lobby do specialize in home decoration should you love to do your own fabric making. Hobby Lobby is among many department stores that have a huge stock of fabric.

If you love to decorate, finding fabric that works in your home, is like icing on a cake. Pieces of furniture can be added to walls with wonderful painted colors. Of anything that makes people focus, is the window. Fabric that covers the window speaks volumes about people. These windows and the treatment you give it would draw the outside world in.

If you are unsure what kind of theme you would like, using the Internet can really help out with some ideas.

## Home Improvement Contractors

You open up a phone book or even the local newspaper; there are tons of advertisements for contractors. Each contractor specializes in certain parts of the home. They can be electricians, designers, engineers, interior designers, plumbers and even joiners. They each have a specific home improvement skill and each one cannot do without another.

If you want to do some home improvement which involves removing chunks and adding to it, it's best in this case to turn to someone with that particular skill. Should this be a new bathroom installation or replacing the old bathroom with fresh ideas, let someone else do the project.

While many suspect all contractors are expensive, this is not always the case. It is possible to look around and find an expensive, yet very experienced contractor. You would pay for labor and materials. The best way to find someone like this is to ask around in your neighborhood, friends and family to see who they would recommend and why. Most people will go with a recommended contractor.

How about if you want to restyle your home? You do not have to do this alone either. There are home interior consultants that are willing to lend their expertise to those who want to refurnish their home to a look they want. It can get quite expensive despite the fact that they are consultants, you have to pay for the materials and the hours they work to tell you what fabrics will work and what others won't. So on, so forth. This is really not feasible for most people because of the money issue. Contractors in home improvement are great when looking to get huge modifications done. They should be listed with a governing body, have all the licenses with terms and conditions.

Should it be a small job you are looking to get done, see if a family member or friend can help you. You should not have to shell out for the whole thing.

No matter the size of the job, it is important that the person you choose to do your work has got certificates for you to see and the much needed materials that you like before they start on a job. Should they be half way into before you inspect it, you still must pay them for what they did do.

## Home Improvement Costs

When you buy a home, you buy it as is typically. Most people know that home improvements are not cheap and can be more than what the house is worth sometimes. Yet, if you follow a few simple rules, it can save you time, money and a major headache.

First thing to remember is to budget. This is imperative when going to do home improvement projects.

Remember to spend money on the materials but do not go overboard. Sometimes more expensive do not mean better. Do some checking around. You may find that what you want at one place could be cheaper elsewhere. If you find it cheaper at another business, that means where it is most expensive at, the item sitting on the shelf cheaper does not constitute better.

Budgeting is entirely crucial in home projects. Always put more money aside than you really want to spend so any case anything comes up (which logic says is almost inevitable) then you have money set aside for this "problem". Should you not budget, then you spend money frivolously and forget where the money has all gone. Remember... when it comes boils down to money, the little things are often overlooked.

Example: Your child is making a volcano for a science fair. You know you must have certain materials to create it. Did you think about what you would be setting your volcano on.. or creating around the volcano?

Only buying what you can curb home improvement costs need to get through the project. Do not purchase anything you know you will not use. Money is vital in getting any project done these days because nothing gets done for free. However, you can minimize these costs by doing some major budgeting.

Everyone wants a nice home to look at and live in. You don't want the most expensive plush carpet or the most fancy bathroom decorating there is. Something that catches your eye at a reasonable price is doable.

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Money is a force in every aspect of life. However, money and home improvement are not always in the same category. This is true in any part of the home improvement project.

## Home Improvement Loans

Entering into any loan agreement is a hard decision to make especially if it is a secured loan! You have to make sure that you can afford the repayments and not fall behind or your house is in jeopardy. Home improvement loans are very common as people are always wanting to better where they live. They can be used for installing a new heating system, a drive way or a fitted bathroom, kitchen or bedroom!

Many people who are after a home improvement loan go through a broker to get in touch with the best possible deals and loan providers. Brokers search all the available loan companies to see who would give you the best deal for the amount of money you would like to borrow. Obviously the loan company with the lowest APR is the best choice!

Home improvement loans can be used for just about anything whether they are used for fitting extensions on the side of your house or if you simply like to replace the old heating system. Many loan companies do ask what type of home improvement you are making so they know whether you are over borrowing or not. Most loans are secured on your house and are called secured loans; unsecured loans are for people with squeaky clean credit scores.

With at least 60% of people in at least \$10,000 worth of debt loans are closely monitored, all your transactions with financial companies such as credit cards, loans and mortgages are recorded on your credit file. Companies can then look over these files and see if there are any defaults or non payment terms listed and from the information that they gather from your credit file they then decide whether it is a safe option to provide you with a loan. Many people suffer from bad credit due to unfortunate events in their past, but loan companies are now offering these types of consumer loans but with much higher rates of interest.

When considering a loan the most important thing you can do is make sure that you can afford the repayments or you could lose your home and everything in it! Taking on a loan is a serious decision and all parties involved need to agree. Once the ball is in motion all you have to do is sign the dotted line and wait for the check to come through and get that beautiful kitchen, bedroom or bathroom that you have always wanted!

## Discount Home Improvement

When people start doing renovations or rather home improvements, they can find it is quite expensive from the get go. However, it is essential to find where you can budget.

When you are able fix up your home with the money you have set aside, then you will need to find a way to make the most of it and do more with it. Budgeting is crucial when improving your home!

Everyone is wanting better than what they have including the cars, the children, the jobs and even the house.

If you can find discounts related to home improvements, then this is good. Many hardware and decorating stores offer discounts and promotions often.

An example of this would be buy one, get three free or get three for the price of two. Sometimes a store will have competitions although it is not always likely you will win. Second and third place are likely to get rewarded too.

Before you shell out any money, set a budget. An amount that you would be willing to spend but no more. You do not have to spend a fortune to get what you want. You don't have to spend a fortune and then not have money for the rest of what you want to renovate. So have an action plan for what you expect and want.

When you begin this budget, set aside some money that includes problems that need extra money spend on it. Then take into thoughts all the discounts and promotions stores have. This can save you tons of money along the way. You do not have to squander thousands of dollars to get what you want, get what you need.

Thanks to the booming technology age, the Internet is also a great source to find discounts on home improvement items. Give these a whirl too. Discounts can be seen in many things and most times, what you buy on the Internet is cheaper than what you would buy on the stores. Sometimes even online stores will offer free shipping or free postage and packaging.

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Why is shopping on the Internet a good idea even if you are buying sight unseen? If you do not like visiting the shops and waiting around for ages for someone to help you from customer service or even standing in line to check on out, then using the Internet is a great idea.

It is always best to shop around and find a good deal for your home improvement project. If you budget a good amount, it is possible to save a good amount.

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