

## Give your Porch a Facelift

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

The front entrance of your home is essentially the structure's face. Does your porch welcome guests with a warm smile, or does it feature a cold and uninviting scowl? If the latter is true, it might be time for a facelift.

While some projects may be considered expensive, investing the money now can have a big impact on increasing the value of your home.

Sometimes, all you need to do is add colorful decorations or a fresh coat of paint or stain to boost curb appeal. Other instances, however, can require serious renovations and help from a local service professional.

If you're ready turn your front entrance's frown upside down, consider making these changes.

### FRONT DOOR

Does your main entrance point lack in the beauty department? Perhaps, years of the elements, such as sun and ice, has caused its finish to fade or crack.

The most affordable way to restore a front door is with a new coat of paint. However, if you desire to complete change in the appearance of the entrance, a new door might be in the cards.

When it comes to selecting a new door, how do you choose?



© ADOBE STOCK

When replacing an entry door, don't forget to consider window placement, decorative glass and custom hardware.

### UPDATE THE RAILING

When a porch is equipped with a sagging or dated railing or doesn't have any at all, the overall appearance of your home can be held back. Don't settle.

The right blend of attractive posts and panels makes a drab front deck shine and flourish. When choosing the right material, you should consider all options.

These are two of the most popular types:

**Vinyl:** This railing is affordable, easy to install and easier to clean. Available in countless designs, you'll have no problem choosing the style for you.

**Wood:** Old-fashioned railing has never lost its place in elegant and stylish front porches. Choose which type of wood is right for you and your budget.

### HANG SHUTTERS

Make your front windows pop by surrounding them with attractive shutters. Choose a color that works well with the overall ambiance of your furniture, doors and other aesthetics on your porch. Shutters are an affordable way to enhance your home's smile.

### REAL ESTATE 101

#### Budget Check

HGTV lists porches among its list of "Maximum Home Value Outdoor Living Projects." Because porch construction and renovation can be expensive, HGTV recommends homeowners consider building a pergola. On-trend and more affordable, pergolas provide a similar sense of a defined outdoor space.

**Wood:** A wooden door is one of the most secure and classic options available. This type of entrance does require more routine maintenance than other options. You'll want to paint or stain the wood every few years to keep

it looking its best.

**Fiberglass:** This style is gaining in popularity due to its durability and energy-efficiency. Because it is becoming a favorite material, fiberglass doors are offered in multiple styles and size. They also are

resistant to dents and scratches.

**Steel:** These doors are praised for offering security, energy efficiency and long-lasting durability. They are available in many different finishes and options.



© ADOBE STOCK

# Give your Porch a Facelift

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

The front entrance of your home is essentially the structure's face. Does your porch welcome guests with a warm smile, or does it feature a cold and uninviting scowl? If the latter is true, it might be time for a facelift.

While some projects may be considered expensive, investing the money now can have a big impact on increasing the value of your home. Sometimes, all you need to do is add colorful decorations or a fresh coat of paint or stain to boost curb appeal. Other instances, however, can require serious renovations and help from a local service professional.

If you're ready to turn your front entrance's frown upside down, consider making these changes.

## FRONT DOOR

Does your main entrance

point lack in the beauty department? Perhaps, years of the elements, such as sun and ice, has caused its finish to fade or crack.

The most affordable way to restore a front door is with a new coat of paint. However, if you desire to complete change in the appearance of the entrance, a new door might be in the cards.

When it comes to selecting a new door, how do you choose?

**Wood:** A wooden door is one of the most secure and classic options available. This type of entrance does require more routine maintenance

than other options. You'll want to paint or stain the wood every few years to keep it looking its best.

**Fiberglass:** This style is gaining in popularity due to its durability and energy-efficiency. Because it is becoming a favorite material, fiberglass doors are offered in multiple styles and size. They also are resistant to dents and scratches.

**Steel:** These doors are praised for offering security, energy efficiency and long-lasting durability. They are available in many different finishes and options.

When replacing an entry

door, don't forget to consider window placement, decorative glass and custom hardware.

## UPDATE THE RAILING

When a porch is equipped with a sagging or dated railing or doesn't have any at all, the overall appearance of your home can be held back. Don't settle.

The right blend of attractive posts and panels makes a drab front deck shine and flourish. When choosing the right material, you should consider all options.

These are two of the most popular types:

**Vinyl:** This railing is afford-

able, easy to install and easier to clean. Available in countless designs, you'll have no problem choosing the style for you.

**Wood:** Old-fashioned railing has never lost its place in elegant and stylish front porches. Choose which type of wood is right for you and your budget.

## HANG SHUTTERS

Make your front windows pop by surrounding them with attractive shutters. Choose a color that works well with the overall ambiance of your furniture, doors and other aesthetics on your porch. Shutters are an affordable way to enhance your home's smile.

## REAL ESTATE 101



### Budget Check

HGTV lists porches among its list of "Maximum Home Value Outdoor Living Projects." Because porch construction and renovation can be expensive, HGTV recommends homeowners consider building a pergola. On-trend and more affordable, pergolas provide a similar sense of a defined outdoor space.

## HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

**Security interest:** If stated in your credit agreement, a creditor's, lessor's, or assignee's legal right to your property (such as your home, stocks, or bonds) that secures payment of your obligation under the credit agreement.

SOURCE: Federal Reserve

# AD SPACE