

## Under \$100 Home Projects

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

Home renovations don't have to break the bank. In fact, you can invest a little and get back a lot. If you're looking to update your home on a budget, consider these weekend projects.

### 1. Utilize cluttered closet space.

Many people have a junk drawer. Do you have a junk closet? A room used primarily for storage can be transformed if you clear out the clutter and create a space with a purpose.

### 2. Lose the cabinet doors.

An open floor plan is popular, but you can take it a step further by opening your cabinets by removing doors and painting the interior. This stylish and attractive upgrade gives rooms an elegant and organized effect.

### 3. Create space over an interior door.

With a little woodworking skill and a decorative display, hanging a shelf over a doorway will create a new place to showcase your favorite pictures or decorations. Make sure to match the shelves' paint color to the trim.

### 4. Replace a worn-out ceiling fan.

Modern ceiling fans are affordable, energy-efficient and can make a big difference when you replace a dated model. They are also relatively easy to install. Consider an option with LED lighting to brighten up a room.

### 5. Fix leaning fence posts.

A leaning fence can ruin the aesthet-



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ics of a backyard. Consider using heavy-duty rope to hold the damaged posts in an upright position while new concrete reinforces them to stand straight.

### 6. Protect exterior doors.

Adding a kickplate to your front door is a way to cover up scuff marks and prevent new ones. The addition of the brass plate will also give your home a traditional look.

### 7. Make your address known.

If your house numbers are fading or

dated, it's not only affecting how people find your address, it's affecting your home's attractiveness in a negative way. Find creative, eye-catching numbers at your local arts and crafts store and make a statement.

### 8. Brighten your under-counter space.

With the help of battery-powered LED under-cabinet lighting, you can improve your vision while cooking and give your room a sense of warmth. These portable lights are affordable options that solve the problem of hard-

wiring new lighting.

### 9. Do away with bedside tables.

Save space in your bedroom by building a wall-mountable shelf instead of your table that sits on the floor. The visual of a floating shelf is attractive and can make your room feel larger.

### 10. Update cabinet hardware.

If the handles on your cabinet are varnished or don't fit with your design, it's easy to replace them with updated hardware in a variety of finishes.



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### REAL ESTATE 101



## More Bang for your Buck

Even a small project in the kitchen can net an impressive return on your investment. According to U.S. News and World Report, small kitchen updates such as cabinet resurfacing and updating finishes can lead to an increase in value of about 80 percent of the project's cost.

### HOMESWISE GLOSSARY

**Annual membership or maintenance fee:** an annual charge for access to a financial product such as a line of credit, credit card, or account. The fee is charged regardless of whether or not the product is used.

SOURCE: Columbia University

# AD SPACE