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## LOW-COST SUMMER DIY PROJECTS TO INCREASE YOUR HOME'S VALUE

Summertime is the right time to tackle those DIY home improvement projects. You don't need to bust your budget to do them, either. Check out these low-cost summer DIY projects that can increase your home's value.

### 1. Revamp your Front Door

First impressions count, and there's no simpler way to make a fabulous first impression than a front door re-do. Paint your front door in a welcoming color that coordinates with the home's exterior and swap out worn-down entry hardware. If you have wiggle room in the budget, consider installing a new door. Remodeling's 2016 Cost vs. Value Report found that adding a midrange-quality front door to your home will recoup 91% of your investment.



### 2. Clean up your Landscape

High-maintenance features, like a large lawn or row of boxwoods, take their toll on you—and perhaps potential buyers. Spruce up your exterior by swapping out maintenance-heavy, water-hogging landscape features. Talk with the pros at your local garden center and ask them to recommend native plants that are less likely to require water and maintenance. Not only will you make your yard look clean and maintained, you'll save money on water bills, too.



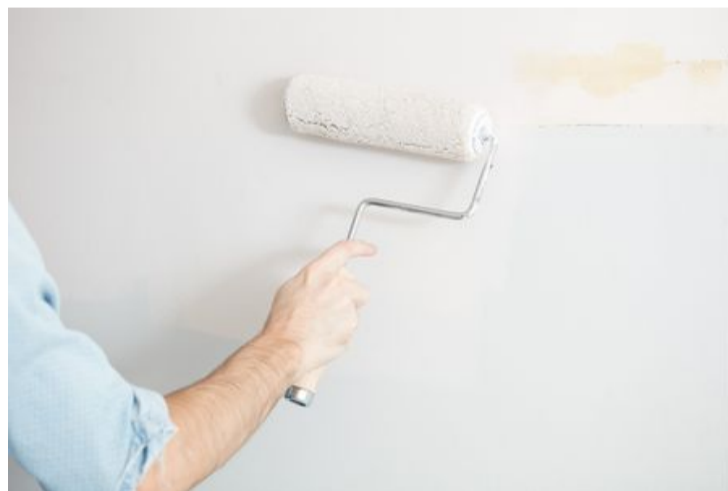
### 3. Let there be Light

Highlight walkways and other exterior features with inexpensive solar-powered lights. If you're the crafty type, search for DIY outdoor lighting ideas on Pinterest to discover ways to make no-electrician-required lights that add charm to your property.



### 4. Freshen up the Walls

Ditch the intense colors and upgrade your walls with a new color. Choose a neutral shade to brighten each room and make it feel larger. Depending on paint brand and quality, expect to spend \$20 to \$30 per can.



### 5. Spruce up the Kitchen Cabinets

Perhaps nothing dates a kitchen quite as much as a wall full of tired, grungy cabinets. New cabinets are pricey, so when you need low-cost DIY projects, consider painting your old cabinets instead. Complete this project with conventional paint, which will often require priming and other prep work, or check your local home store for paint kits specifically designed to coat cabinets without stripping or priming. Right now, white cabinetry can make your home feel modern and on trend. Take your re-do a step further by replacing cabinet handles and knobs, too.



## 6. Caulk it Up

Caulk, which is the stripping that protects appliances and fixtures from water, yellows and degrades over time. Freshen up the look of your kitchen or bathroom by re-caulking around countertops, cabinets, or other fixtures. Re-applying caulk is a super-inexpensive DIY project; one tube will cost about \$5 to \$7. Just remember, it's recommended that you first remove the old caulk.



## 7. De-clutter your Space

Removing clutter gives any home an instant facelift by making rooms appear cleaner and larger. Plus, if you're ready to place your house on the market, real estate experts say a clutter-free home is more appealing to buyers. Divide unwanted and unneeded items into three piles: Sell, Donate, and Trash. Sell items at a yard sale or list them on neighborhood message boards, Facebook group pages, or online classified boards.



## 8. Organize Closets

Create efficient storage by installing laminate or wire storage systems. Some closet organization manufacturers offer online DIY design tools that allow you to enter the closet's dimensions and then build a system that maximizes space. Most standard-sized closet makeover projects can be completed in a weekend.

