

Make an ENTRANCE

Volume 4, Number 1

Update
your home
with some
TLC

Security
Features
of a door

Curb
Appeal

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Editor's Note

If the New Year is traditionally the time for taking a fresh, new look at life, what better place to start than at your own front door?

Our latest issue of *Make an Entrance* magazine explores an inspiring variety of easily executed remodeling upgrades that can give your home that "just built" look. From transforming your entryway to quick tips on increasing curb appeal, you'll learn about improvements that will not only increase your home's aesthetic appeal but also help you save valuable energy dollars, not to mention precious landfill space.

Enjoy this issue of *Make an Entrance*. We hope the ideas you find here will help you open the door to exciting new possibilities – both inside and outside of your home.



Is your home looking a little ho-hum, a touch out-of-date or maybe a bit on the drab side? Has it been awhile since it benefited from some updates, improvements or enhancements? If so, it's time you gave your home a little TLC to boost its appearance and functionality!

Transform your home

A well-planned renovation can transform your house from adequate to outstanding, giving you a place that better suits your needs, desires and taste. Remodeling projects include adding square footage, making better use of the existing space, or updating the style, with many of the changes offering the added bonus of increasing your home's energy-efficiency.

When planning a renovation, certified bath and kitchen remodeler Bob Lehner, of Lehner Brunton Remodelers in Palatine, Illinois says, "You definitely want to look at which options you have available and determine what you can do that will improve your home."

While kitchen and bath updates offer the best return on your dollar, repurposing a room can address new space requirements or desires without increasing

the home's footprint. For example, convert a family room to a home office or enclose a screened porch to make it available for year-round entertaining. Change the door style as well to better suit the room's new "identity" — for example,

select the Therma-Tru® Fiber-Classic® Sliding Patio Doors to separate the home office from the adjoining area. (continued on page 4)



Update
your home
with some

TLC



Lighten up the indoors

“Daylighting” (using windows and reflective surfaces to bring in natural light) can increase the illumination within your home without driving up your energy costs. In addition to windows and skylights, opt for an entry door that offers some light transmittal. Sidelites (a fixed glass panel placed on either or both sides of the door), doorlites (windows integrated in the door itself) and transoms (a framed glass unit placed above the door assembly) can bring in a substantial amount of light without any energy loss, thanks to triple pane decorative glass or clear glass with Low-emissivity (Low-E).

Therma-Tru® offers a wide selection of glass designs and Privacy Scale Ratings from clear to opaque, making it easy to choose a design that matches your home’s architectural style while giving you the privacy you desire.

Patio doors (both sliding and hinged) can also visually open up the interior space while providing a view to the landscape beyond. In addition to choosing doors with Low-E glass, consider options such as removable or internal grilles, screens and internal mini-blinds with a tilt and raise-and-lower feature.

New windows and doors, a redesigned entryway or a major landscape overhaul can create a new look for an older home.



Create some excitement

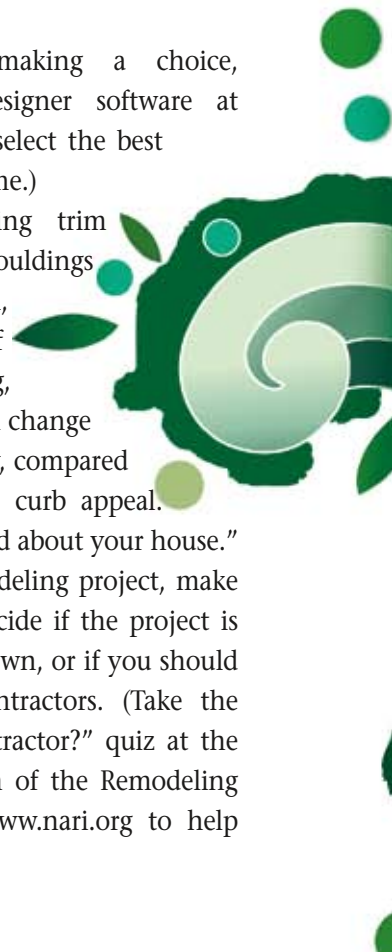
When it comes to improving the exterior of your house, new windows and doors, a redesigned entryway or a major landscape overhaul can create a new look even for an older home.

With doors being one of the major sources of energy loss, it’s a wise move to replace older ones with energy-efficient models, choosing a style that complements your home’s architectural design. If it’s just the door’s appearance that needs strengthening, update its stain or paint color to coordinate or contrast with the house’s color palette. In either case, a new or updated entry door will give the front of your home some much-needed flair.

(If you’re having trouble making a choice, refer to Therma-Tru’s Door Designer software at www.thermatru.com to help you select the best design, glass and color for your home.)

Simpler updates include adding trim accessories such as shutters or mouldings or changing the color on the trim, fascia and soffit, says Bob Lehner, of Lehner Brunton Remodelers, adding, “These architectural differences will change your house relatively inexpensively, compared to the value they will add to its curb appeal. And the updates make you feel good about your house.”

But before you begin your remodeling project, make sure you do your research and decide if the project is one that you can handle on your own, or if you should use the services of qualified contractors. (Take the “To Do It Yourself or Hire a Contractor?” quiz at the National Association of the Remodeling Industry’s site at www.nari.org to help you decide.) ■



It's "out with the old and in with the new" as you embark on your household renovations and updates. But what do you do with those appliances and items that you're planning to replace? Instead of sending them all to a landfill, here are some eco-alternatives for you to consider.

- 1. Consider repurposing some items.** Leftover or discarded lumber can become a doghouse for the family pet, still usable carpeting can find a new home in the kids' play area, brick and concrete waste can be used as fill under walkways or driveways and excess or used insulation materials can be installed in attic spaces or under concrete floors.
- 2. Donate still usable items** (building materials, plumbing items such as sinks or toilets, furniture, cabinetry or appliances) to charitable organizations such as the Salvation Army (www.satruck.com), Habitat for Humanity (www.habitat.org) or your local rescue mission. Or find a local building materials reuse company like The Loading Dock, Inc. (www.loadingdock.org) or ReUse Center Program (www.thereusecenter.com). Depending on the organization, you may be able to claim a charitable tax deduction for your donation.
- 3. Take what you can't re-use**, such as metals, plastic and aluminum items, to your local recycling center. Even construction materials such as concrete, drywall and shingles can be recycled. (For links to recyclers in your area, visit the Construction Materials Recycling Association at www.cdrecycling.org or www.Earth911.com.)
- 4. Post your used home renovation materials** on the Global Recycling Network site www.grn.com or used.recycle.net. Wood items (flooring, trim and millwork) can be listed on www.sticktrade.com.

Landfill Alternatives



A new look



for an old door

If your wood-grained fiberglass door is in fine shape from a structural point of view, but lacks the pizzazz to spark up the entrance, consider updating its appearance with stain.

Easy to apply and available in seven popular colors, fiberglass stain kits can enhance your door's look and give your entryway a fresh new look. Don't substitute stains made for wood, since they may not bond properly to the surface.

To make your project even easier, the Therma-Tru® Same-Day™ Stain Kit has all the supplies you need: stain and topcoat, brushes, protective gloves, staining and cleaning cloths, mineral spirits, stir sticks and two test skin samples for stain color tests.

Follow these steps to update your door. (For more refinishing tips, visit Therma-Tru's FAQ page at www.thermatru.com/customer-support/faqs/finishing.)

Choose the right shade. When choosing the right color stain for your front door, designer Tineke Triggs of Artistic Designs for Living in San Francisco says

to consider the style of your home. A Spanish style home calls for the rich red tones found in mahogany stain, for example, while a Victorian style lends itself to a darker, more old world stain such as walnut.

Modern architecture can handle just about the whole range of the stain spectrum, from the dark, rich brown of an English walnut or cedar to the golden undertones of oak or a rich cherry shade. Your stain color can also be selected to accent another color on your home's exterior — the shutters or a tone in the brick or stone, for example — with the trim painted a contrasting color for more emphasis.

In-swing front doors can be stained two different shades, said Triggs — one to complement the exterior of the home and one to enhance your interior space. (Tip: Use Therma-Tru's Door Designer at www.thermatru.com/products/door-designer to experiment online with stain choices.)



Tip: Make sure the outside temperature is between 50 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit and the humidity is below 95%.



Prepare the surface. Remove old paint or stain with a methylene chloride-based stripper. Then clean with an all-purpose cleaner, rinse and allow to completely dry. Then mask all glass components and remove or mask hinges, lock hardware and weatherstripping. (Tip: Make sure the outside temperature is between 50 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit and the humidity is below 95%.)

Apply the stain. Stir the stain well and then lightly apply the stain, starting with the interior panels. Use a circular motion or, if the door has a grain, apply in the direction of the grain — one section at a time. Wait five minutes (seven to 10 minutes longer for medium to darker shades) before brushing gently with long sweeping

motions to blend the stain. Then move to the next section. (Tip: Lighten the stain color in the first 24 to 48 hours by wiping lightly with mineral spirits or darken by adding more stain. After 48 hours, however, you will need to follow the Stripping to Refinish instructions.)

Protect the finish. Once the stain is dry (after just a few hours if you're using Therma-Tru's Same-Day Stain Kit or 48 hours later for other products), lightly apply the topcoat. Brush in the direction of the grain and be sure to cover all door surfaces. Apply a second coat three to five hours later. (Tip: Use the tip of the brush to apply the topcoat and work in the same order in which you applied the stain.)

Maintain the color. Although the topcoat lasts about three to five years, exposure to the elements will take their toll, causing roughness or loss of gloss. To check your stain's status, compare your door to the skin samples from the stain color test. If it needs refreshing, clean the door (see Prepare the Surface, above), then apply one very thin coat of the topcoat to all surfaces of the door. (Tip: Replace the can of topcoat if it is more than three years old or has been frozen. Check with your local waste management department regarding proper disposal.)

Even if you are “all thumbs” when it comes to update projects, you'll find that staining your door is a simple 1-2-3 process, taking your door from tired to terrific in just one day! ■



Keeping It Comfortable



Mother Nature can really wreak havoc with your utility budget, with cold winter winds and the blazing summer sun increasing your heating and cooling costs. But the following tips will help you reduce your energy expense while keeping your home comfortable.



Rate your residence. Not sure if you need to implement some energy-saving strategies? Maybe it's time to conduct an energy audit to determine what needs improving. Visit the ENERGY STAR® web site at www.energystar.gov and click on "Home Energy Audits." You'll learn where your house is losing energy, how efficient your heating and cooling systems are and what conservation techniques will save hot water and electricity.



Learn the "Energy Alphabet." R, E, U and SHGC are more than just letters. They represent different ways of measuring a product's energy efficiency. The R-Value describes the ability of a material or assembly to resist the flow or transmittance of heat, while SHGC (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient) measures how well a window absorbs or reflects heat from the sun.

The U-value measures the rate at which heat is transmitted from outside to inside surfaces, while air infiltration rating measures the rate at which air passes through a door system. The lower the U-factor and air leakage numbers, the greater the energy efficiency of the unit.

Green Speak

What it means to be "green" and tips for green living.

Do you speak "green"?

"Environmentally friendly," "energy efficient" and "low-VOC" are just a few of the common environmental awareness terms. But what do they really mean? Here's a quick rundown to help you speak (and live) "green."

Q: What does "environmentally friendly" mean?

A: According to Consumer Reports' GreenerChoices (www.greenerchoices.org), it's a claim that the product or packaging either has some kind of environmental benefit or causes no harm to the environment. However, since there is no government or official definition for this term, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) requires manufacturers to either avoid such terms or substantiate and qualify them to avoid misleading consumers.

Q: What updates will conserve energy in my home?

A: If you want to save on heating and cooling costs, start at your front door. An ill-fitting or uninsulated door can leak more than just air — it can also let dollars slip out the cracks. Replace old entryway and patio doors with ENERGY STAR® qualified models complete with Low-E glass. You'll save energy and money — and improve your home's resale value! (Check the Energy Star web site at www.energystar.gov for information on 2009 rebates.)

Q: What are some energy-efficient lighting options?

A: Considering that artificial lighting consumes almost 15% of a household's electricity use, "greening" your choices can reduce lighting energy use in homes up to

Low-emissivity (Low-E) glass absorbs and reflects heat and light energy, making it an energy-efficient choice not only for windows, but also for sidelites, doorlites and patio doors. Therma-Tru® offers Low-E glass in many of its doorlites and sidelites as well as for its patio door systems. (Check out Therma-Tru's "Glossary of Terms" under "Customer Support" for more easy-to-understand definitions.)



Seek out the Star. You don't have to be a scientist to find the best energy-efficient products. You just have to look for the star — the ENERGY STAR® to be exact. Products with the ENERGY STAR® logo meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy. The ENERGY STAR® web site can also show you how to reduce your energy bills and improve home comfort.

Go green with your color choices — not literally but in terms of choosing exterior colors that can save energy. A Florida study showed that, in hot climates, white roofs offered higher solar reflectance and greater ability

R-value

to release absorbed heat, translating to tangible cooling energy savings. However, in colder climes, you might do better with a darker roof — the lower emissivity means it retains heat, which reduces the heating load. The same color rules apply to your home's exterior. According to the U.S. Department of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), dull, dark-colored home exteriors absorb 70% to 90% of the sun's energy, while light-colored surfaces effectively reflect most of the heat away from your home.

Plant some savings. Trees and shrubs can do more than beautify your landscape. They can also help reduce your energy costs by providing shade from the summer sun and acting as windbreaks when the cold wind blows. Plant deciduous trees to the south of your home to block the summer sun. This can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 9° F, according to EERE. If wind chill is a problem, plant a windbreak of dense evergreen trees and shrubs to the north and northwest of your home. (For more tips, visit EERE's consumer's guide page at apps1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home.)

LOW-E

75%. Outdoors, light up your landscaping with easy to install and virtually maintenance-free solar lights. Indoors, replace your incandescent lights with longer-lasting CFLs (compact fluorescent lamps), and save up to 75% of the initial lighting energy. Use skylights to bring natural light indoors, basing your model choice on energy performance factors such as heat loss/gain and sunlight transmittance.

Q: What's the difference between degradable and compostable?

A: While choosing items with labels like "biodegradable" or "photodegradable" (breaking down when exposed to environmental elements or light) may make you feel better, they still occupy space in landfills, which when combined with other discarded materials equaled about 254 million tons in 2007 alone according to the EPA.

Low-E Glass



Solar Lighting



Proper Weather Stripping



"Compostable" products or packaging, however, can be safely added to your home compost pile, along with landscape trimmings and certain food waste (coffee grounds, eggshells or teabags, for example), which can then be added to your garden and flowerbeds.

Q: What is "greenwashing"?

A: Coined by former Madison Avenue advertising executive Jerry Mander, "greenwashing" is the practice of misleading consumers regarding the environmental practices of a company or the environmental benefits of a product or service. Some examples are claims without certification or vague claims such as "all natural." TerraChoice recommends checking for third-party certification from agencies such as EcoLogoCM, Chlorine Free Products Association (CFPA), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Green Guard or Green Seal. ■

Point-of-Entry Safeguards for Your Home

Safety and security

To the old cliché, “You can never be too rich or too thin,” add “too safe,” which is why it’s so important to evaluate your exterior doors from a security perspective. Therma-Tru® entry door models can provide the security you need along with options that provide light and guarantee privacy.

For example, the Therma-Tru multi-point locking system engages the frame at several points — making it more secure. Another option includes an adjustable strike plate that can withstand up to 450 lbs. of force. On sliding patio doors, look for options such as a spring-loaded footbolt, which locks into the sill for improved security.

Then consider visibility. While a solid, windowless door keeps outsiders from looking in, it also can create a dark, fortress-like feel to an entryway. Fortunately, there are a variety of decorative glass styles that allow light in while ensuring your privacy — from etched and water glass to antique and rainglass (the latter offering the highest degree of opacity). As an added bonus, decorative glass can increase the curb appeal of your home while reflecting your personal style.

Patio doors can offer you some visibility and light options as well, thanks to internal mini-blinds complete with a tilt feature for light control and privacy.

And, if you want both fire protection and increased impact resistance, a fire-rated door is your best solution, available in a variety of styles.





In the Middle Ages, castles were protected with moats, serving as the first line of defense against marauders. Nowadays, we rely on a well-designed door to safeguard us from intruders — both elemental and human.

Weather protection

“Neither rain nor hail nor sleet nor snow...” An adaptation of this familiar postal carrier slogan should be the motto of your home’s exterior doors as well, since it’s their job to keep the weather out and the heat (or cool air) in.

Choose a well-insulated door, preferably one that has an ENERGY STAR® rating, equipped with foam-filled compression weatherstripping along the door

edges and a tight-fitting door bottom design to seal your entryway against moisture and air infiltration. The sill should be rot-resistant and maintenance-free, with stainless steel adjustment hardware to provide a close-fitting seal.

Or go one step further, choosing a Therma-Tru Tru-Defense® Door System. Its profiled sills are designed to eliminate the destructive effects of water while its door bottom sweep and corner seals pads prevent air and water infiltration. For areas subject to gale force winds, tropical storms and hurricanes, impact rated doors and glass are a smart solution, since they can withstand heavy winds, rain and flying debris.

You don’t have to forgo the view provided by patio doors to be secure against Mother Nature. Components such as an integrated rain deflector that repels water away from all sealing components, combined with an astragal, profiled sill and door

bottom (all part of a Therma-Tru Tru-Defense Door System) create a superior seal for maximum water resistance.

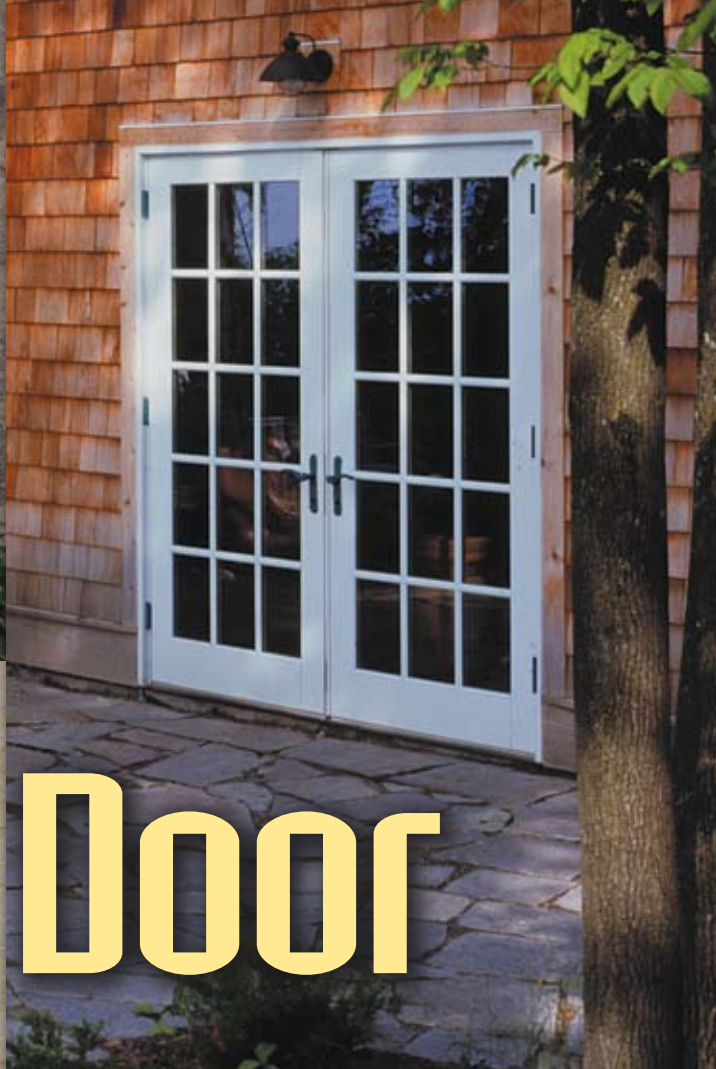
Sunlight can be another powerful force, but by choosing low-emissivity (Low-E) glass for sidelites, doorlites and patio doors, you can reduce energy loss by as much as 30% – 50%, according to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

By upgrading your old door to a newer model, you can not only increase the beauty of your home, but also improve its safety and security. This will give you peace of mind. ■



With an integrated rain deflector that repels water, plus a profiled sill and door bottom sweep, the Therma-Tru Tru-Defense Door System creates a superior seal for maximum water resistance.





Choosing The **Right Door**



A new door is a long-term investment, so do your research, basing your selection on energy efficiency, maintenance and style.



Energy Efficiency

When selecting doors for energy efficiency, you need to look at four key ratings: R-value, U-factor, air infiltration and, for doors with doorlites or sidelites, solar heat gain coefficient. For more information about these, please see page 8.

Maintenance and Durability

You want a door that will enhance your home's appearance, as well as weather the elements without a lot of upkeep on your end. Here is a quick comparison of the three door composition types.

Wood Doors. While there is no denying the beauty of a wood door's grain or its high-end cachet, it comes at a price. Solid wood doors are not only expensive to buy, they are expensive to own. They lack the energy efficiency found in fiberglass or steel doors, which offer five times the insulating value compared to wood. They also have a tendency to absorb moisture, peel or bubble, bow, warp and fade, and require an investment of time and money to maintain their appearance.

Steel Doors. Compared to wood doors, steel doors are a less costly purchase and offer good insulating value and overall security. They are also not subject to bowing or cracking. However, they lack the texture found in wood or fiberglass models.

Fiberglass Doors. Fiberglass doors offer the beauty of wood graining with superior insulating value and energy efficiency ratings. As for durability, they resist denting and scratching, and won't bow, rot, deteriorate or rust. Fiberglass door stains allow you to customize the door color to enhance your home, while upkeep is as simple as washing it as needed or refreshing the topcoat every few years.

Styles and Options

Entry Doors. When selecting an entry door, first determine the design of your house. Is the style a bungalow,

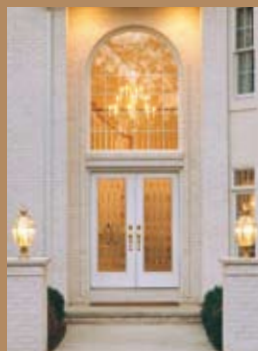
colonial, coastal, ranch or country? Does it have a Spanish or European flavor? Does the architecture lean toward an old-fashioned Victorian or is it more in line with a modern or New American design?

Then decide which entry door will best enhance your entryway. By incorporating decorative glass in the form of doorlites, sidelites or transoms, you will not only add style but also bring light into your foyer. (Choose a level of opacity to match your privacy needs.) Finally, select the stain or paint color that either matches a shade found on your home's exterior or provides a stunning accent for maximum impact. Hardware and hinges in bold metal finishes will add the finishing touches.

To make the process even easier, use the Therma-Tru® Door Designer, found under "Products" on the company's web site. With this tool, you first choose your house's architectural style, and then view various combinations of door styles in a variety of colors along with door glass and sidelite options to find the one that's right for your home.

Patio Doors. Bring the outdoors in with patio doors, available as hinged or sliding systems. Hinged (or French) doors can swing out or in, depending on your traffic flow and room layout. Or opt for sliding doors, an ideal solution when space is at a premium. Be sure to choose an ENERGY STAR® qualified door with premium weatherstripping and Low-E insulated glass, so you can enjoy the view without watching your energy dollars disappear.

Fire Doors. Fiberglass and steel fire doors provide an extra measure of safety without sacrificing style. Designed to contain the spread of fire from one room to another, they also offer superior resistance to forced entry, making them a wise choice for basement areas or house to garage openings. Therma-Tru fire doors are available with 90- or 20-minute fire ratings that provide additional safety for your family and help protect your home. ■



You might think you only have to worry about your home's curb appeal when you're ready to put it on the market. But giving it an exterior facelift can result in a fresher and more appealing appearance.

Also, maintaining your home affects not only the value but the value of your neighbors' homes as well, explains Dorcas Helfant-Browning, CIPS, CRS, principal broker for Coldwell-Banker Professional Realtors in eastern Virginia. "People want to be known for living in a community where there is tremendous pride. And when you update the front of your home, your neighbors also begin to do their share, which creates a sense of excitement in the neighborhood."

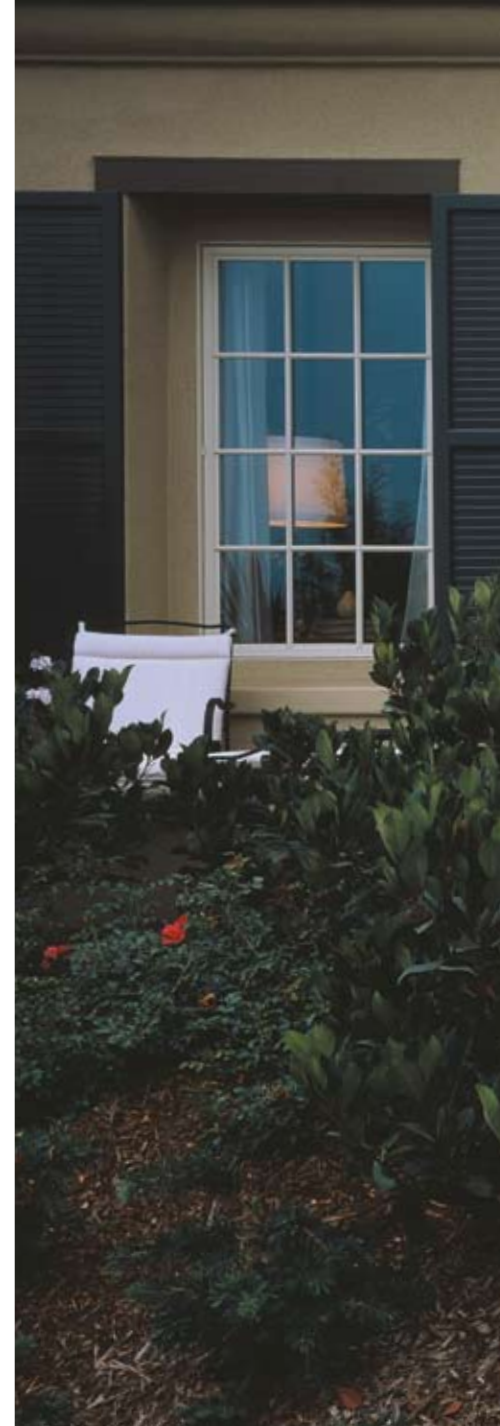
If it's been a while since you have updated the front of your home, here are three key curb appeal areas to consider:

Lighting. Adding landscape lighting to the front of your home is like highlighting the hair framing a face. Lighting brightens up the appearance and draws attention to the house's architectural features, as well as adds a measure of safety and security.

The proliferation of solar lighting makes it simple to add low lighting to accent your beds, driveway and walkways, says Helfant-Browning. But even wired kits, such as low-voltage halogen units, can be easy for the homeowner to install.



Curbo Appeal



Landscaping. Landscaping is another great way to update the front of the house. Start by pruning overgrown shrubbery (the architectural equivalent of thinning heavy eyebrows) to open up the face of the house and bring the windows (the "eyes") into greater focus.

"Never let your shrubbery come over your window level," advises Helfant-Browning. "You want to frame your window area and have balance."

As for incorporating annuals and perennials, Helfant-Browning says to "think of your home and front yard as a canvas, and choose colors that complement your siding, shutters and front door."



Entry Area. Last but not least is the entry area: your front porch and door. Aim for a neat, clean and updated appearance.

Just as a bright white smile is an instant appeal generator, a new front door (or an original door that has been freshly stained or painted), can speak volumes to visitors, telling them to expect an equally attractive interior. (Keep in mind that a color or style change will also enhance your foyer!) But don't stop there. Change out the old tired storm door and lighting fixtures for new and improved models — easy and relatively economical improvements that can really make a difference.

By updating these features, you will give your home the aesthetic boost it needs for a fresher, younger appearance! ■



Makes Every Door A Front Door



Introducing the new Smooth-Star® craftsman fiberglass door from Therma-Tru® – a classic style at an exceptional value that always makes a great entrance whether it's used on the front, back or side of a house. Available with a variety of distinctive glass designs, there's also a solid panel door option that makes a great choice for the garage-to-house entry. It's the Smooth transition to enhancing all of a home's entryways.



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