Kitchens are often described as the busiest rooms in a home. Kitchens are where meals are prepared and tend to be go-to gathering spots on holiday get-togethers and during other events when homeowners host family and friends.

With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's easy to see how homeowners might grow a little bored by these rooms. The cost of a kitchen remodel won't be cheap, as the home improvement resource Angi.com notes that the typical cost of such a project in the United States is between $13,000 and $38,000. Angi.com estimates even indicate that a high-end remodel could cost homeowners as much as $61,000. That's beyond many homeowners' budgets. But the good news is that there are many quick and easy, not to mention less expensive, ways to give a kitchen a new look.

■ Repaint and restyle the cabinets. Cabinet space is an undeniably precious commodity in a kitchen, especially as more and more homeowners embrace their inner chef and cook more complicated meals at home. After all, the more expansive a home's culinary repertoire, the more space that homeowners need to store all the tools of the cooking trade. A full cabinet replacement is unnecessary if the cabinets are still functional and not overcrowded, so repainting them can be a great way to give the kitchen a new look while keeping costs reasonable. During the painting project, homeowners can install new cabinet knobs and/or drawer pulls to freshen up the style of the cabinets even further.

■ Install under-cabinet lighting. Another inexpensive way to give a kitchen a new look is to install under-cabinet lighting. Under-cabinet lighting serves both an aesthetic and practical purpose. From a purely aesthetic standpoint, under-cabinet lighting can make a kitchen feel more warm and keep the kitchen illuminated when meals aren't being prepared and homeowners don't want to turn on their overhead lights but still want to be able to navigate the kitchen safely. During meal prep, under-cabinet lighting can illuminate counters so it's easier to keep food and perform other prep tasks.

■ Replace existing backsplash. Replacing backsplash is another simple, inexpensive way to give a kitchen a new feel. Homeowners can opt for something neutral that won't upset their existing decor or go with a more bold backsplash that immediately draws the attention of anyone who enters the room. This simple job can be done by the average do-it-yourselfer and the cost of new backsplash won't break the bank.

■ Replace existing seating. Whether you have an island countertop with bar stools or a breakfast nook with cushioned seats, replacing the seating is a budget-friendly job that can create a new look when entering the room. Countertop bar stools come in many styles, so giving this area of the kitchen a new feel can be as simple as shifting from classic, high-back stools to more modern retro stools with a chrome base. For the breakfast nook, replacing a light-colored bench cushion with a bolder alternative can instantly transform the look of the space.

Kitchen remodels can break the bank. But there's a host of budget-friendly ways for cost-conscious homeowners to revitalize these popular spaces in their homes.
Popular trends in home exteriors

C
ertain homes have an inherent drawback that
problematic appeal and it’s not
neatly put to use. In many instances, buyers are
acceptable look of homeownerships to
look out for as an investment. Though in many instances, it’s
in many instances, terrific for
that bring buyers into the
that make buyers look for
that appeal in homes. In
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that such homes are
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tend to be the most popular when painting brick. The
the exterior and interior of the
problems that ultimately affect
home exteriors. It can have when selling a
socially when the time comes to
evident to the naked eye, especially when the
to make their homes better
others may do so in an effort
align with modern styles and
tends to be noticeable the
exterior design trends. The
moment visitors pull up to the
light up landscaping features like
trees and gardens. Home design trends tend to be
different. But recognition of the
the front doors of
those who insist they can determine when
damage when water gets in
areas. In addition, cracked
covers up the
walkways: If the
eight, virtually everything from outdoor living
products. Such
lighting outside. Ambient outdoor

Outdoor living spaces are one popular hardcasing trend that figures to remain sought-after for
years to come.

Exterior renovations that boast the best ROI

Remodeling with a return on investment in mind
for homeowners, whether one is thinking of
the next few months or further down the road. Though the
approach is an intimate one, in many instances, it’s
for homeowners to consider what buyers may want when
planning home improvements. Homeowners may be
surprised to learn which renovations garner the best ROI at
the home. The home improvement
company has released its
indicators that overall home
improvement projects provide
a 70 percent ROI on average.
Many have the project’s
functional space and
improvements. The
exterior home
renovations that help
cost money at resale, according to
Cost vs. Value Report.”

A garage door replacement
95.3 percent received of $3,166 cost
2. Manufactured Stone
Vanish: 91.4 percent received of $3,066 cost
3. Window replacement (Fiberglass): 95.3 percent received of $2,442 cost
4. Vaulted ceiling replacement (Vantana): 67.7 percent received of $1,688 cost
5. Siding replacement
6. Window replacement
7. Deck addition (Wood): 67.8 percent received of $4,000, making this a budget-friendly remodeling project.
8. Entry Door Replacement
9. Garage door replacement
10. Roofing replacement

The majority of homeowners are Remodeling magazine’s list of
the best home investments is one reason making this a
terior design trends particularly
to potential buyers that the
home was not maintained, however false that assumption
and it’s important for
homeowners before beginning a
renovation.

Minor exterior upgrades that can help sell a
home

The home improvement industry has been
booming for years, but forecasters are predicting a slowdown in
2023 and perhaps beyond. According to the
Home Improvement Research Institute, which is the leading market
research firm for the home and housing industry,
innovate that growth in the home improvement products market is
estimated to slow down 7 percent in 2023 to 2.5 percent in 2023.
Inflation continues to affect consumer spending,
and homeowners may be looking to spend less on
renovations in the year ahead.

Minor exterior improvements aren’t as costly as larger projects can
make big differences, especially among prospective buyers.
When looking for minor upgrades that can help sell a home,
homes, homeowners can rely on Remodeling magazine’s annual "Cost vs. Value Report." This report is
an annual guide for homeowners to develop a
inflation-adjusted remodeling projects and revalues the
consumer spending and the market as a
cost against a host of variables, including location, the following are some relatively minor exterior projects that
years and provide a strong return for homeowners.

- Exterior drainage and sidewalk replacement: Minor work that
can make a
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a home appears to
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- deck addition (Wood): 67.8 percent received

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Some hidden costs of ‘Do It Yourself’ projects

DIY projects are a major do-it-yourself trend these days. Many homeowners are taking the DIY route to save money and pride themselves on being able to do almost any project without hiring professional help. Though eco-conscious sentiment is on the rise, the cost of DIY projects can quickly add up and negate the savings that homeowners are looking for.

DIY projects may initially seem like a way to save money, but homeowners who are serious about building their own home should calculate the hidden costs associated with DIY projects before deciding to do some work on their own.

DIY projects can add up and add up quickly on your own. But, if you're willing to put in the time and effort, they can be a great way to get some hidden costs of ‘Do It Yourself’ projects.

DIY Home Improvement Projects

DIY home improvement projects can be a great way to save money, but homeowners must be careful to factor in all the hidden costs associated with these projects.

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D o you still have an extra room in your house that you do not use or want to turn into an extra bathroom for a family of two or more? If this is the case, you may be wondering what questions you should ask a contractor before you hire them. This article provides some of those questions that homeowners should ask before they hire a home renovation contractor.

Home improvement proj- ect costs vary greatly from one contractor to another. Let’s take a look at some of the factors that affect these costs so you can make an informed decision when looking for a contractor. You can save money by considering all the projects you plan to do before you hire a contractor.

Supply costs are considered one of the most important factors that affect the cost of renovations. Here are some of the most important costs to consider when planning renovations:

- **Labor costs**
- **Material costs**
- **Permits and fees**
- **Insurance and bonding**
- **Cleaning and disposal fees**

These costs can be negotiated between the homeowner and the contractor. It’s important to keep in mind that these costs can vary depending on the size and complexity of the project.

When you are looking for a contractor, it’s important to consider these factors when determining the cost of the project. You can save money by doing your own research and comparing different contractors before hiring one. It’s also a good idea to ask for bids from multiple contractors to ensure you are getting the best price.

When selecting a contractor, it’s important to consider their qualifications, experience, and references. You should also inquire about their insurance and bonding. These are important factors to consider when choosing a contractor.

It’s also important to consider the duration of the project. You may want to work with a contractor who is willing to work with you to make sure the project is completed within the agreed upon time frame.

Home renovation projects can be expensive, and it’s important to plan accordingly. However, by doing your research and choosing the right contractor, you can save money on your home renovation project. 

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**How to cut costs on home renovations**

**Details to include in a renovation work contract**

C ontacts provide protection. Contracts can be signed on the dotted line. According to LegalMatch.com, a contract is an agreement between two parties that creates a mutual legal obligation. Oral contracts are possible, but written contracts are preferred for the classic everyday homeowner.

Any time a person sets out to do a home improvement project that involves contracts or professional contractors, it’s important to be smart and know your rights. Contracts are not only important, they can save you a lot of money and time. It’s important to be aware of the details of your contract.

Here is a list of the most important details to consider when entering into a home renovation contract:

1. **Legal Description**
2. **Scope of Work**
3. **Materials and Supplies**
4. **Payment Terms**
5. **Warranty**
6. **Dispute Resolution**

When working with a contractor, you should be aware of these details. It’s important to keep these details in mind when negotiating a contract.

**How to compare contractors’ bids**

When presenting your project to prospective contractors try to be as detailed as possible and furnish the same proposal to all parties to make it simpler to compare bids. It’s important to ensure that all contractors are aware of the same materials and tasks. For example, if you’re comparing window replacement quotes, be sure that each quote is based on the same window material and coating. Vinyl replacement windows may not cost as much as fiberglass or wood.

It’s much easier to compare pricing when contractors provide side estimates reflecting the same materials.

Small versus big con- tracting companies

Some bids may differ based on the manpower of the con- tractor. Knowing this can save you a lot of money since bids that can be broken up into smaller chunks will allow you to perform a cost analysis and decide which is the best deal.

Make sure bids are based on the same materials and tasks. For example, if you’re comparing window replacement quotes, be sure that each quote is based on the same window material and coating. Vinyl replacement windows may not cost as much as fiberglass or wood.

When comparing different bids, it’s important to ensure that all contractors are aware of the same materials and tasks. This includes the cost of labor, material, and the time frame for the project.

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Design ideas to give your home a farmhouse feel

Farmhouse style homes are very popular. A 2020 survey from Houzz.com asked more than 5,000 adults across the United States about their favorite house style from a list that included bohemian craftsman, mid-century modern, ranch, French country, and Tudor, among others. Modern farmhouse was the runaway winner, as participants in 62 of the 92 states indicated the simple, cozy style was their favorite.

Home improvement projects can help homeowners put their own unique stamp on their home, and each project can be both aesthetic and functional in nature. The following are some farmhouse-design elements homeowners can consider as they look to transform their home interior with this popular style in mind.

■ Exposed beams: Exposed beams add a rustic element to your home and can help create a sense of warmth and coziness. They can be left natural or painted to complement the overall design of your home.

■ Kitchen sinks: Many homeowners choose a large farmhouse sink for their kitchen. A farmhouse sink is perfect for any country-themed kitchen and can add a touch of rustic charm to your space.

■ Countertops: HGTV suggests adding a countertop for homeowners who favor European farmhouse style. Countertops made of materials such as wood or stone can help create a more traditional feel in your home.

■ Distressed wood finishes: Distressed wood is a popular choice in farmhouse-style homes. It can give your home a vintage look and feel.

■ Shelving on walls: Adding shelves to your walls can be a creative way to display your belongings and make use of wall space. Shelves can be built into the walls or positioned on the floor.

■ Closet organization: Closet organizers such as shelves, rods, or hanging clothing organizers can help keep closets organized and functional. This can also help create a more organized and modern look in your home.

■ Storage beds: Adding storage to your beds can help maximize space in your bedroom. Storage beds can be used for extra storage or to keep your room organized.

■ Floor-to-ceiling windows: Large windows can help bring natural light into your home and create an open and airy atmosphere.

■ Recessed lighting: Recessed lighting can help highlight architectural features and creates a more modern look in your home.

Contracting out your home improvement projects can be more expensive than doing it yourself, however, depending on complexity, it may be worth the cost and involve fewer headaches.

Improve storage at home

Many storage options exist on the market today to help get your closets organized. In addition to a variety of appearances and sizes, they can help achieve a personalization look as well:

■ Storage beds typically feature drawers or cabinets built into the base of the bed. They can provide additional storage space and help keep your room organized.

■ Rafter shelving: Rafter shelving can be a great way to utilize wall space in your home. It can add extra storage space and help keep your room organized.

■ Oven storage: Oven storage can be a useful way to keep your kitchen organized. It can help keep your kitchen appliances and utensils in one place and help keep your kitchen clean and tidy.

■ Wall shelves: Adding shelves to your walls can be a great way to display your belongings and add extra storage space.

■ Over-the-door storage: Over-the-door storage can be a great way to utilize space in your home. It can help keep your room organized and help keep your belongings in one place.

■ Drawers: Drawers can be a great way to add extra storage space to your home. They can be used in various rooms and can help keep your room organized.

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Spring Home, Lawn & Garden

Wednesday, April 26, 2023
Seniors or their loved ones can make some minor adjustments to bathrooms so falls are less likely to happen.

- Install grab bars in the shower and bath and wherever necessary. Grab bars can make it easier for seniors to get in and out of the shower or tub by giving them something to hold onto. This can be especially helpful for seniors who must step up and over their tubs to bathe.

- Install LED lighting. Poor lighting in a bathroom can make it hard for seniors to see, which can make them more vulnerable to slips and falls. That’s especially so for seniors who find themselves needing to make nighttime visits to the bathroom.

- Utilize non-slip bath mats. Non-slip bath mats often come with rubber-backed liners to ensure the mats stay put even when making nighttime visits to the bathroom.

- Install grab bars in the shower and bath and elsewhere to provide the best support around toilets. Such grab bars come around both sides of the toilet and look similar to armrests.

- Install LED lighting. Poor lighting in a bathroom can make it hard for seniors to see, which can make them more vulnerable to slips and falls. That’s especially so for seniors who find themselves making frequent bathroom visits.

- Use extra-large light switches. Extra-large light switches can help make it easier for seniors to see, which can make them more likely to do so in a bathroom.

- Prompt and routine cleaning can reduce the likelihood that seniors will fall in their bathrooms. Seniors who have difficulty keeping up with household cleaning may be more likely to do so in a bathroom. Various measures can help make bathrooms safer for aging individuals.