

Your Home

Information Provided by Your Local Independent Contractor and Lowe's

Increasing Property Value with Curb Appeal

Here are some tips to spruce up your yard, make a quality first impression and invest in your home's value all at once:

Revitalize your front porch: Paint the front door, and make sure you have a shiny new doorknob and a clean welcome mat. Keep in mind that while the real estate agent is opening the door, potential buyers spend between 60-120 seconds standing at the front of the house looking around at the landscaping, paint, porch, etc. This is the time to make a good first impression.

Plant flowers: Adding annuals or window boxes is an easy way to add color and increase curb appeal. If it's winter, try ornamental cabbage or a Christmas cactus for color. Contact your local landscaping professional for more ideas.

Consider stucco: Converting the front and back of the house to stucco costs very little, and it changes the classification of the house from "frame" to "masonry" on the appraisal. This means it's in the same category as a "brick home," which gives it a considerably higher value in the marketplace. Contact your local builder/remodeler for more information.

Focus on the edges: Most people don't see the details of a garden; they notice the overall effect. If you have lawn creeping into your garden beds or weeds growing along the edges, clean up these borders to create a tidy flow. Contact your local landscaping professional for more professional edging ideas.

Tidy up: Trim bushes, weed beds and power wash the driveway, sidewalk and front of the house if needed. Add mulch in garden beds to give them a fresh look. A fresh coat of paint is always helpful.

Drip lines

Drip lines are a convenient and effective way to keep gardens and window boxes looking fresh. They save water time, reduce weeds, improve flower and plant growth and are completely adaptable to your changing landscape.

Soaker hoses: These hoses "sweat" water and have a 2-3 inch watering width. They are the easiest form of drip-irrigation and are laid on the ground in between plantings or buried under mulch.

Sprinkler hoses: These hoses spray a fine mist into the air. For a drip line effect, simply turn the hose over so the mist goes into the ground. You can make your own with an old garden hose by using a hot needle to pierce holes based on your planting arrangement.

Contact your local landscaping professional for more advanced drip line techniques.

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Curb Appeal = Sold

85-90%

The proportion of house-buying decisions that happen from the curb.

Source: Tony Meier, Realtor at Windermere Real Estate, Redmond, Wa.