DIY Projects to Boost the Value of Your Home
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Regardless of whether you are getting ready to sell your home or thinking of selling in the future, it is never a bad time to do a little home improvement to add value to your home. In fact, most house listings will detail what improvements have been made through the years, drawing attention to the added value, so if you haven't done so already start keeping a comprehensive list. If you aren't sure which home projects pack the most value, check out these suggestions to get you started.

Keep It Dry

While this might not sound like your typical DIY home improvement project, you might be surprised by how much packed on dirt your house has collected without you even realizing it. For example, do you turn on the exhaust fan when you shower or have a leaky pipe that you haven't gotten around to yet? Do you even have an exhaust fan? Mold is a sneaky culprit, and fighting it can be expensive if it gets out of hand. Look for signs of mold such as damp odors, bubbling paint/wallpaper, water stains, and black spots on the wall. Click here for more useful tips for dealing with mold.

Even if mold has yet to set up shop in your home, now is a good time to take the proper measures to prevent it. An easy DIY project for moisture control is to make sure all your windows and doors are properly sealed. Do a thorough walk-through of your home and look for any wet or discolored spots on your ceiling. While fixing the actual leak will be better left to a professional, you can at least identify it and address it before it becomes a bigger issue.

Replace Carpet with Hardwood

More and more homebuyers are moving away from carpet and opting for homes with hardwood floors. Removing carpet and replacing it with hardwood might seem a little daunting, but with the proper tools, it can be done on a budget. When removing carpet, you should go in reverse: carpet, padding, tack strips, staples, nails, glue. You'll need a utility knife, hammer, pry bar, or floor scraper. Start by cutting the carpet into workable sections, pull it up, and carry it out. After the easy part, start pulling up the padding, nails, staples, and strips, and scrape off any glue. Take this process slow, or consider asking friends or family for help, as it will be a lot of wear and tear on your knees, back, and neck.

Once you've successfully removed all of the carpet, you must decide what type of hardwood to install. Floating hardwood floors can be installed right on top of the subfloor using their snap-together system. Nailed or glued down hardwood floors can be installed directly on the subfloor as well, but like the name suggests, they will be need to be physically locked in place.

When deciding what option to go with, consider the appearance, cost, subfloor type, home type, feel, and sound.

Refresh Your Bathroom

Give your bathroom a quick and easy refresh to up the value. Start by replacing fixtures, installing new knobs, [re-grouting](#) the shower, or installing a [backsplash](#). These are all projects that even the most beginner DIY adventurer can tackle and will do wonders for the look of your bathroom. If you are looking for a project that is a little simpler and [budget-friendly](#), consider adding a fresh coat of paint. You can even bring new life to your wood floors with a coat of glossy paint tinted to match your bathroom color scheme.

Even something as simple as a deep clean can bring your bathroom sparkling back to life. Give your floors some love by using homeowner-friendly acid etcher to remove dirt from the grout lines and restore them to their like-new state. Replace your old shower curtain, as it is a breeding ground for mold and mildew due to the constant moisture. Finish by adding a few color accents and installing a new mirror. A little goes a long way!

These are just a few of the many DIY projects you can take on to improve your home's value. Pretend you are a homebuyer and take a walkthrough of your home, identifying any areas that stick out to you. If necessary, bring in an unbiased family member or friend to help. All that's left is to pick a project and let that value begin.