

# Spring Home Improvement

A Special Supplement to Siuslaw News



## Freshen up your home this spring

Spring's arrival means improvements to home and garden while nature brings out early blossoms and seasonal rain.

### Home improvements can take just days

Home improvement projects ramp up when the weather warms up, as homeowners channel the rejuvenating feelings of spring and tackle their home to-do lists. Large-scale renovations can greatly affect a home, but smaller projects can yield impressive results and be completed over the course of a single weekend. If time is of the essence, these weekend or one-day projects may satisfy homeowners' desires to fix up their homes.

- Create an accent wall. Painting a focal wall in a home can create a serious impact. The bonus is it will not take as long

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- Install a new faucet. Instantly improve a kitchen or a bathroom with new fixtures. New faucets can provide aesthetic appeal and low-flow faucets can help conserve water.
- Create a gallery on the staircase. Gather and arrange framed photos, artwork or wall accents so that they ascend the wall of a staircase. This creates a designer touch and can dress up an often barren area of wall space.
- Install a fresh light fixture. Improve drab spaces with a little illumination. Better Homes & Gardens suggests replacing an existing fixture with something new and vibrant. If hang-

ing a new fixture is not within one's skill set, free-standing table or floor lamps also can cast a new glow on a space.

- Add molding. Molding can add instant aesthetic appeal to a room. Molding is appropriate near the floor, at the top of walls where they meet the ceiling, or even mid-wall as a chair rail. Some homeowners like to create framed molding on walls in formal living spaces.
- Update kitchen or bathroom hardware. Replacing hardware is a fast and easy project, but one that can have immediate impact. Swap out tired or outdated hardware for newer brushed metals and more impactful shapes and designs.

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### Organize your garage to make room

Organizational professionals for This Old House estimate that only 30 percent of people store their vehicles in a garage, while the RAC Foundation found that, in the United Kingdom, 53 percent of households had access to a garage, but only 24 percent used them to park their vehicles.

The reason why cars and trucks are relegated to sitting in driveways or at the curb is simple: too much stuff and, in some instances, larger vehicles that simply do not fit.

Taking inventory of the items stored in the garage can help free up space to park cars. This can prolong the life of the vehicle's paint and make it more comfortable to enter and exit the vehicle during inclement weather. Homeowners who want to make more effective use of their garages can give thought to their current usage,

ultimately deciding if certain items can be stored elsewhere or discarded.

Homeowners can also set aside a weekend to tackle garage organization — involving the children and other family members to make the sorting and cleaning easier. Donate or sell unwanted items as soon as possible. Recycle items that can be reused or repurposed, and then consider contacting a bulk hauler to remove the trash.

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