

Impactful Weekend Projects

If your home needs some modern updates but you can't find the time or room in your budget for a significant renovation, consider a small project for big results. It doesn't always have to cost a fortune to make a change.

Many jobs with large impacts are easily achievable with a minor understanding of home renovations. While some major projects may be best suited for a professional, don't be afraid to try a simple job as you become familiar with DIY repairs and upgrades.

Here are a few quick and easy ideas to consider when updating your home over a weekend.

REPLACE FLOORING

A quick renovation that makes a big difference is replacing dated flooring with improved coverings. You can find DIY-friendly materials to do the install yourself like interlocking planks of vinyl or adhesive-backed carpet or tile. For some jobs like installing hardwood or stretching room-sized carpet, some special tools and research may be necessary to perform the jobs without the help of an expert.

REARRANGE THE FURNITURE

You can give an old room new life by simply rearranging your existing furniture. Follow these tips from Better Homes and Gardens to make a statement with your new display.

Go for a long and lean design with plenty of room for foot traffic and use end

tables on both ends of the sofa.

Arrange your furniture to showcase main focal points in the room. For instance, chairs and couches should face your television setup or a relaxing view in front of the window.

Consider the available lighting in a room from windows and fixtures like lamps.

To add more light, consider installing in-floor outlets to give yourself more options when using a floating furniture design.

TOUCH UP TRIM

When you don't want to paint an entire room, even minor touch ups to your trim can make a big difference. In

addition to choosing neutral colors as accents, you can make it stand out by using a high-sheen gloss but remember that it may highlight imperfections in the nearby walls.

If the defects are too noticeable, you may benefit from patching them up and coating with a matching paint color.



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Top 10 Energy-Saving Tips

Simple ways to save energy
and money at home

- 1 Set your thermostat to **78°** in the summer and **68°** in the winter.
- 2 Use a **programmable thermostat** to automatically adjust the temperature in your home.
- 3 Set your **water heater to 120°F** and use efficient showerheads.
- 4 Switch to **ENERGY STAR qualified LED bulbs**. Look for the Lighting Facts label when you shop. It's a quick way to compare brightness (lumens), light appearance (warm to cool) and operating costs. Buy specially priced bulbs at participating stores:
- 5 **Wash clothes in cold water**, and wash only full loads.
- 6 Clean the **lint filter** in the dryer after every use.
- 7 Set **refrigerator temperature** between 37° and 40°F, and your freezer at 0°F.
- 8 **Unplug old refrigerators** in garages
- 9 **Unplug appliances and electronics** when not in use. Plug home electronics, such as TVs, DVD players and computers into power strips and turn off the power strips when the equipment is not in use.
- 10 Improve your home's heating and cooling systems by cleaning or **replacing furnace filters** and scheduling **routine system maintenance** to help air flow through the system more efficiently.



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