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Create New Attic Living Space

When you need to add more living space but don't want to commit to building an addition, sometimes an attic can be the perfect candidate for a transition.

The task is best left to a professional, especially if it requires the installation of new electricity or water pipes. Get your plan together before contacting a service to

determine how you want to reinvigorate the space. Many people prefer to use the attic as an additional bedroom, an office or even a hangout spot. It's important to check with your local officials about building permits as their unique regulations may require licensing. Once you get the legalities out of the way, use these tips for a smooth renovation.

BUILDING A SUBFLOOR
Your home's attic was likely built to add storage for items like boxes, suitcases or trunks. Unfortunately, many contractor's or home builders don't

foresee the need for an attic to become a living space, so before you can upgrade it, a subfloor must be installed over the bare joists. To add a floor, it's not always as simple as laying plywood down on the current supports. Many times, homes are built with bare joists that are unsuitable for the additional weight of furniture, people or pets who will frequent the new space. However, to create a safe area, an expert can cut boards of the same length and nail them to the existing joints to create a durable structure.

HEATING AND AIR
When planning an attic renovation, it's important to include plans on heating and cooling the new room. If you want it to be included in your current system's ductwork, hiring a professional HVAC technician is the best way to ensure it is rerouted properly and efficiently. If you want to forgo the expense of redirecting air into your attic, you can get by with the assistance of a window unit in the summer and by using space heaters during cooler temperatures. Make sure to keep nearby

items away from the additional heating tool as the
The National Fire Protection Association blamed them for 15% of all home fires between 2012 and 2016.
FINISHING THE ATTIC
In addition to covering your newly built floor, you'll have to decide a wall cover too. Many who renovate their attics add a modern touch with paintable drywall or choose a type of paneling to fit their design scheme. Consider how you will use the space to determine how to finish the walls and ceilings.

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Fun Crafts with Leaves

Turn piles of autumn leaves from a pile of yard waste into beautiful seasonal crafts. These ideas aren't just pretty, they're kid friendly, too. Start a new tradition with these ideas.

LEAF STENCILS
To pull this off, try to find full leaves

with unique patterns on their tips. Transfer shapes by tracing it to high quality paper with metallic markers, colored pencils or ink. You can make your designs stand out by coloring them in with glow-in-the-dark or glossy paint. After a little practice, consider showcasing them on an accent wall to create an appealing fall aesthetic indoors.

GLITTER LEAVES
Creating shimmering leaves is easy with a little glue and a lot of glitter.

Draw unique designs or shapes on the leaves with a hot glue gun or stick, and sprinkle glitter on top. The adhesive will hold it in place and showcase your glimmering art. For extra creativity, visit your local hobby shop to find colored glue to combine with the sparkling glitter.
GOOGLY EYES
This one can be a lot of fun for the kids. Googly eyes add fun and personality to boring old leaves. Encourage children to complete the facial struc-

ture with noses and mouths and create their own leaf family by giving each character its own name and story.
3D LEAVES
Use a plaster mixture to cast leaves and complete the display with a coat of paint once it dries. You can find suitable mixing compounds at any arts and crafts store. Be sure to cover your work area with a barrier like wax paper to protect it from overspills.