

Make the most of your home improvement dollars

Home improvement projects provide homeowners with a chance to put their own stamp on their homes. In addition, many such projects make homes safer and, in some instances, more eco-friendly.

The opportunity to make a home more comfortable, safer and/or more eco-friendly entices many homeowners to open their wallets. In fact, the Home Improvement Research Institute estimates that the home improvement products market will grow by more than 5 percent in 2018. Homeowners might experience some sticker shock when researching home improvement projects or receiving estimates from contractors. But there are ways for budget-conscious homeowners to transform their homes and still make the most of their home improvement dollars.

- Do your homework. Each year, Remodeling magazine publishes its "Cost vs. Value Report," a comprehensive study of 21 popular remodeling projects in 149 United States markets. The report notes the value each project retains at resale in 100 markets across the country. Homeowners who want to get the strongest return on investment can access the "Cost vs. Value Report" (www.remodeling.how.net) to see which home improvement projects are best suited for them.

- Do some of the labor yourself. Homeowners willing to swing a hammer also can stretch their home improvement

dollars. For example, the home improvement resource This Old House® notes that homeowners willing to do their own demolition before the contractors arrive can save substantial amounts of money. A professional contractor may charge \$1,000 to demo a 200-square-foot deck, but This Old House estimates that homeowners who demo their own decks may spend only \$450 (for the dumpster rental and parking permit).

- Hire a consultant. The DIY movement is incredibly popular, no doubt thanks to television channels such as HGTV and the DIY Network. Homeowners with DIY experience may be able to complete projects on their own with little consultation from professional contractors. Some contractors may not offer consulting services, however. The consultation route, which typically requires paying licensed contractors hourly fees to offer guidance, should only be considered by homeowners with legitimate DIY skills, for whom this option can be a great way to save money.

- Schedule renovations during homeowner-friendly times of year. Summer and fall tend to be contractors' busy seasons, and homeowners will likely pay more for projects during this time of year. If possible, delay starting projects until right after the new year, when contractors aren't so busy and might be more flexible with pricing.

Budget-conscious homeowners can employ various strategies to make the most of their home improvement dollars without sacrificing quality.



HOMESTEAD Furniture



Save Money by Shopping at Local Furniture Store

Homestead furniture offers quality furniture at affordable prices. They are a family owned business that has been in the same location in Cottage Grove for almost 50 years. The restored historical building's two floors are filled with furniture for every room of your home with a vast variety of colors, fabrics, styles and woods to fit any taste.

They carry many name brands of furniture. Well known brands that they stock are Mako, Corsicana, Spring Air, Ashley, Bench Craft, Pure Talalay Bliss (Latex Beds) just to name a few. If you don't see what you are looking for, don't hesitate to ask Rob because he can probably get it for you.

In addition to their inventory

of fine furniture, Homestead has a complete floor-covering department with whatever you are looking for, vinyl laminates, tile, and carpet. We also feature locally manufactured hardwood cabinets & Jenko furniture. Installation and free estimates are available. Heatizon systems are also available.

Financing is available through Synchrony Financial, along with accepting Visa, MasterCard, Discover, & American Express cards.

The next time you are in the market for new furniture, or updating your flooring or carpet, save yourself the trip to Eugene and stop by Homestead to see what they have to offer.

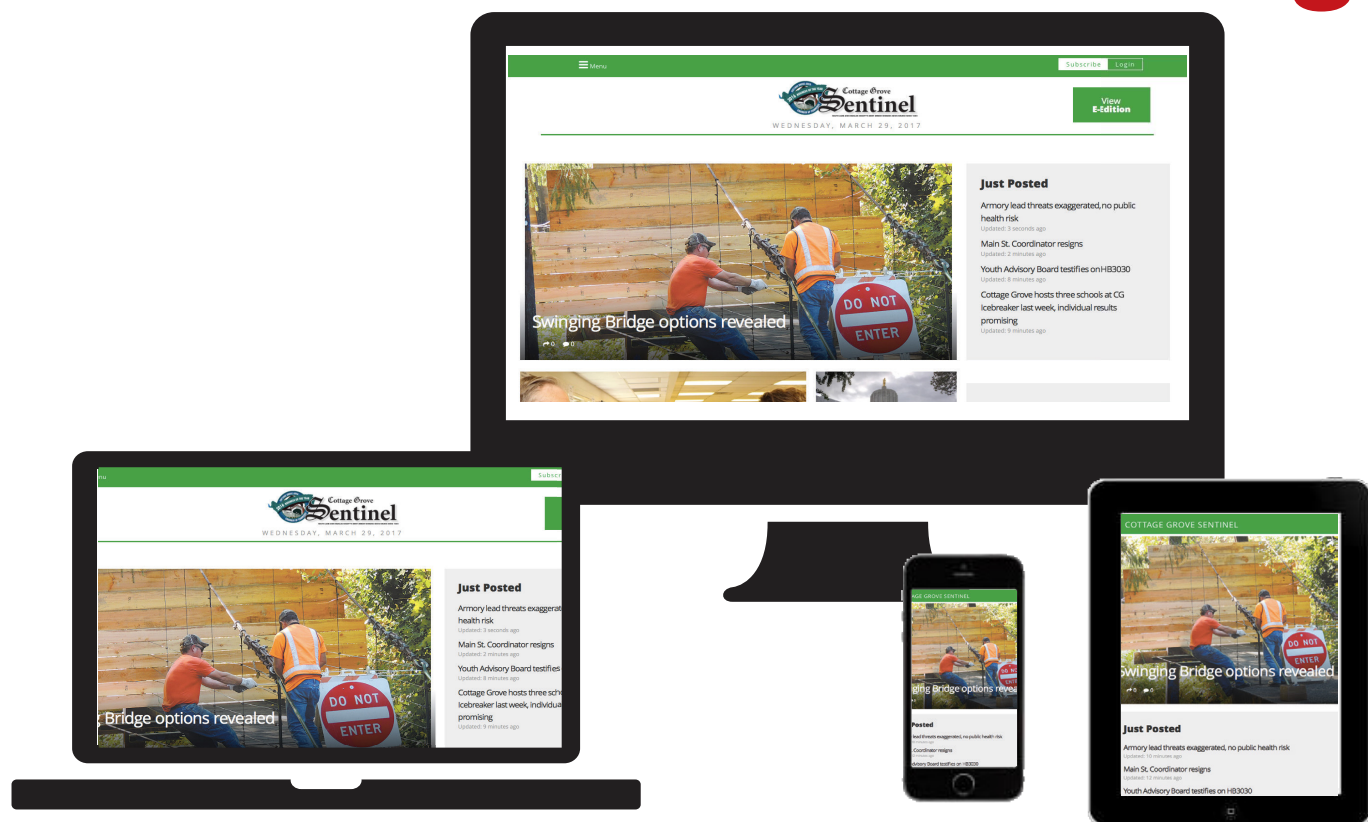
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