

Whether you're putting your home on the market this summer or just want to create a cozier retreat for you and your family, little improvements can make a big difference. The following projects can help freshen up your home's look without breaking the bank.

Maximize your curb appeal. Landscaping the front yard can make a big impact without a lot of cash. Mow the lawn and trim hedges and trees. Plant colorful flowers in front of the home, and add potted plants or hanging baskets near the front door for an inviting look. Make sure the trim is freshly painted and not peeling or cracking. Consider replacing or painting the front door if it looks dated or worn.

If you live in a townhome or condo, you probably aren't responsible for the landscaping. However, there are things you can do to increase the curb appeal of your property for potential buyers or your guests, such as adding a welcome mat and a decorative door knocker to give your home some character.

Make a good first impression. The front entry of your home is the first thing guests will see when they walk in the door. Use tiles, stone or wood laminate, rather than carpet or linoleum, to help your home stand out. Add a nice entryway table and lamp to help light the area.

Update fixtures and hardware. Nothing can make a home look more dated than drab light fixtures and decades-old cabinets. Replacing light fixtures is actually an easy and inexpensive project. Adding a new chandelier in the dining room, or installing sconces in the

Cost-Friendly Ideas to Spruce Up Your Home

bathroom will be a huge improvement over dated brass fixtures.

Changing cabinet hardware can also make a big impact, and usually only costs a dollar or two per handle. Consider painting your cabinets as well – a coat of white or neutral paint can update kitchen cabinets instantly.

Paint the interior. Paint is the easiest and least expensive way to make a dramatic impact on the inside of your home. If you're planning to sell soon, paint with fresh neutrals that will help brighten your space, like creams, khakis or pale yellows. If you're just looking to makeover your home, there are many dramatic changes you can make with paint. Consider accent walls or bold colors to punch up the look of your home.

We Can Help. Whatever you're dreaming of for your home this summer, Alliance Credit Union can lend a hand. A home equity loan or line of credit can help you finance your plans – big and small. And when you're ready to move on to a new home, we can help with a flexible mortgage loan with a great rate. Call 800-232-8669 or visit our Web site, www.alliancecreditunion.org, to learn more.

