

Simple Ways to Update an Outdated House

Just like clothing and hairstyle trends change over time, house décor trends come and go as well. In the blink of an eye, paint colors become dated, furniture styles become obsolete, and light fixtures look outdated archaic. If you don't keep up with small changes, before you know it, your entire house looks antiquated. You may feel overwhelmed at the thought of starting any type of do-it-yourself project, and hiring someone else for home renovation is typically very pricey. There are so many home improvement shows that depict home makeovers complete with new cabinetry and knocked-down walls, leading you to believe that major, costly changes are necessary to bring your home up-to-date. But before you resign yourself to never inviting friends over so you can avoid the embarrassment of having to show off your outdated living quarters, consider making a few small changes that will give your home a completely new appearance. The following suggestions are inexpensive changes that can be knocked out in a weekend, leaving you and your wallet happy.

1. Add a Fresh Coat of Paint

One way to give your home a completely new look is by adding a fresh coat of paint. Not only does paint become dull and scuffed after several years of wear and tear, but popular color schemes change frequently as well. Dark colors such as maroons and greens that were all the rave in the late nineties and early two thousands have been replaced with subtle, neutral colors. Try painting your [living room](#) a gray or taupe color, which will not only give the room a fresh look, but will make your room appear bigger, as lighter colors tend to reflect the light. Keep in mind that flat paint will typically not hold up as well, as it tends to show the small scuffs and scratches in more detail. A higher-gloss paint will be more durable for normal wear and tear. Choose an eggshell or semi-gloss finish for the living room to give your walls the most durability.

2. Hang Curtains to Make Windows Look Bigger

Large windows are trending now, and gone are the narrow, tiny windows that were favored decades ago. While changing the dimensions of your windows is not an easy (or inexpensive!) task, there are several things you can do to trick your eyes into "seeing" larger windows. Mount your curtain rods near the ceiling, above the top frame of the window. Buy panel curtains that are long enough to reach below the length of the window, almost to the floor. Your eye will see the panel that reaches from floor to ceiling, creating the illusion of height when looking at the window. Be sure that your curtain panels do not drag on the floor when hung, as this will create the illusion of shorter walls and windows. Your curtain panels should reach to just [above the floor](#) by roughly an inch. Choose a light color and fabric for an airy, fresh feel.

3. Replace Outdated Light Fixtures

Replacing outdated light fixtures is a simple way to give your home a fresh look. Not only is this an easy task, but you can replace as few or as many fixtures as you want at a time to fit your budget and decorating needs. Brighter gold and brass fixtures that were popular in the late nineties have been replaced with fixtures that have a darker, smoother finish. Simple, one-bulb light fixtures in the hallway or entryway of the home have been replaced with chandeliers and more [ornate fixtures](#). A trendy way to update your living room is to replace bright overhead lights with softer lamps placed strategically around the room. Pair dark light fixtures with your newly painted, light-colored walls, and your home

has an instant, modern facelift that will leave you feeling refreshed. When choosing light bulbs, choose a soft white lighting for bedrooms and living rooms and a brighter, white light for kitchen and bathrooms.

4. Change up Decorative Accents

Changing up your interior décor can make a world of difference when it comes to updating your home. You can grow tired of seeing the same decorations day in and day out, and even purchasing a few small new pieces will give your room a complete facelift. Changing up your decorating scheme is another task you can do a little or a lot at a time, depending on your budget. A trendy piece of art or a [decorative accent](#) can double as décor and a fun conversation piece. If you have a large wall that you are unsure what to do with, try mixing and matching decorative pieces and frames to create a unique display. Adding a pillow with a [summer theme](#) gives your room a fresh look and can be easily swapped out when the seasons change, and a new [portrait](#) can give the room a whole new feel.

5. Clear Off Countertops

A simple yet often overlooked way to take your home from outdated to trendy in no time is to clear the clutter off of your countertops. Fresh, sleek spaces are trending now, and this look can be easily achieved by removing clutter and streamlining your space. Find a home for the things that tend to overtake countertops, such as junk mail and keys. Hiding the cords to electrical gadgets and appliances is also an easy way to achieve an updated look. Be it small kitchen appliances like the coffeemaker or toaster, or larger everyday items such as the television and computer, there are cord management systems for every room in your house. Removing clutter can be made simple utilizing multi-function pieces of furniture. Invest in a [kitchen island](#) that has storage compartments to make the most of your space. By clearing the clutter and keeping smaller areas organized, your home will look and feel fresh and modernized.