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March 28, 2019 | An Advertising Supplement to The News-Herald



Swing into Spring 5 ideas for updating your space

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# Home Decor 101: Decorating with bold colors



#### (Family Features)

From dark and moody to vibrant and bold, colorful design is gaining favor among homeowners ditching safe, neutral palettes to create more daring, dramatic spaces.

Decorating with deeply saturated colors can be intimidating. Explore these ideas to welcome more bold colors into your home and create inviting spaces for living and entertaining.

#### Walls of color

Say goodbye to beige and embrace the bold color trend by enhancing walls with hues that make a statement. The trick is to avoid making colors so loud that the space loses its stylish appeal. Bold doesn't necessarily mean bright, so look for muted variations of the shades you prefer. Also remember that when it comes to design, there is such a thing as too much. If painting all the walls in a space will close it in or make it feel lost in the dark, try adding color in more subtle ways, such as an accent wall (or two), or painting the ceiling as your accent. Another option for implementing vibrant wall color: stick to smaller rooms, where the bold look is less likely to be overwhelming. Illuminate color with natural light

When decorating with statement colors, remember that lighting can make a significant difference in the overall aesthetic. In addition to lighting fixtures, be sure to incorporate plenty of natural light to bring out the best in those bold hues.

To bring natural light deeper into the space, consider skylights as an option with a solution such as Velux No Leak Solar Powered Fresh Air Skylights, which can bathe the space in natural light and open to bring in fresh air. Another smart way to capture natural light is by installing an option like Sun Tunnel skylights. With their low-profile design, they create a sleek appearance, and installation is also quick and easy. Learn more at whyskylights.com.

#### **Bold furnishings**

An often overlooked but essential component of design is the furniture. Creating a colorful, inviting room doesn't stop with the walls and floors; what's in the room can bring the colors to life. Think of the space and all its contents, not just the architectural components, as your canvas for creating the space you envision. If you're hesitant to invest in a pricy couch in a trendy hue, a compromise might come in the form of a richly colored ac-

#### cent table or chair. **Creative cabinetry**

Traditional wood grain cabinetry sometimes gives way to far more creative color schemes in kitchens and bathrooms. While white is still a popular choice, and can even be considered bold in the right setting, true color on cabinets is also gaining traction among homeowners. With the right backsplash, countertops and flooring, you can safely install cabinets in a uniform color throughout the kitchen, but another on-trend option is to reserve the color for an island base or just one wall of cabinets. You could even mix and match colors on the tops and bottoms. Detail elements like the hardware provide another opportunity for a bold look. You can enhance the room's design with standout pulls that lend extra vibrance to the space.

#### Fabric with flair

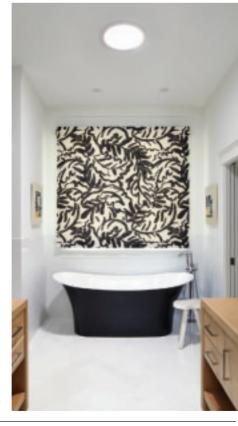
Textiles provide nearly unlimited options to balance a bold design. Using lighter fabrics for elements such as draperies, upholstery, rugs and decorative pillows can soften the feel of a room with bold tones. Look for subtle patterns that pull in hints of the deeper hue to bring the look together, or simply coordinate shades from complementary color families.



#### **Unexpected Pops of Color**

Designers often talk about adding pops of color to bring together a palette, but there are no real rules about where those color enhancements can or should be. Introducing vibrant color in unexpected places can be an especially impactful way to stylize a room.

One example is with a skylight blind, which provides a decorative element while also allowing for light control. If you prefer a trendy option like combining dark colors with metallic accents, consider options such as a metallic gold skylight blind from Velux to connect to the room decor below. More than 80 color and pattern choices heighten the drama of a skylight blind, and you can choose from features like room darkening, light filtering and Venetian-style blinds to add function as well.



# **4 Steps for DIY Paint Project Success**

(Family Features) Painting is one of the easiest and most impactful DIY projects for homeowners to quickly update their homes. Whether it's a new look in a master bathroom, adding a pop of color to the guest room, finishing off a basement remodel or anything in-between, a fresh coat of paint provides a fresh spin that's all your own.

To make your painting project go smoothly, consider following these important steps. Take this task list from the experts at Purdy Professional Painting Tools into account before diving in to your DIY painting project.

**Find inspiration.** Having a final design in mind before starting your project can help you plan. From the obvious wall color to more intricate details like painting trim, doors, the ceiling and more, starting your project with a plan can help you avoid multiple trips to the store.

Remember, the details are important: incorporating the correct types and sheens of paint, using complementary colors, buying the proper amount of paint and more.

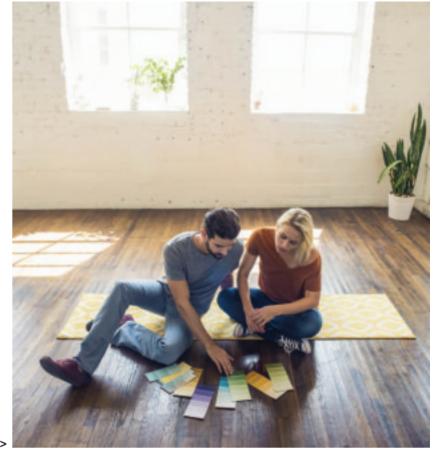
**Collect the right tools.** Part of the planning process includes ensuring you have the proper tools for the project. A paint brush, roller cover, roller frame, paint tray and extension pole are the basic essentials for your project's success. From step ladders and putty knives to wood filler and

drop cloths, it's crucial to have everything you need.

However, keep in mind that not all tools are created equal. For example, when you use a high-quality paint brush, you're more likely to paint straight lines when cutting in to corners and walls. You may also notice a much smoother finish, one without unsightly brush strokes, which means a more visually appealing result with less effort, too. One option is Purdy Brushes, which are specially designed and hand-crafted to ensure you get professional-quality results every time. Find a tool selector to help you find the best brushes, roller covers and painting accessories for your project at purdy.com.

**Prepare the area.** Proper planning for your project depends on which room in the house you're painting. The main rules of thumb include removing everything from your walls - including curtains, decor and switch plates - using drop cloths to cover floors; removing or lowering light fixtures from the ceiling; and emptying the room of tables, lamps, furniture and other movable objects. If this isn't possible, push all the pieces to the center of the room and cover with drop cloths.

Don't forget to prepare the surface you are going to paint. Patch and sand any holes or imper-SEE PAGE 15>





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# Did you know?

Spring cleaning is a ritual in many homes, though some might be forgetting to address an area of their homes that can be especially vulnerable to insect infestations. According to PestWorld.org, kitchen cabinets and pantries used to store spices and baking items, such as flour, can make for inviting hideouts for various types of pests. These unwelcome guests include beetles, Indian meal moths and ants. To remedy this issue or prevent insects from becoming an issue, discard stale spices or dated baking items. Once such items have been removed from the cabinets

and pantry and discarded, wipe down the interior of the spaces before installing fresh shelf paper. If the critters didn't make their presence known in the cabinets, that doesn't mean they haven't made your kitchen home over the winter. Some might have opted to spend their winters behind appliances, including the stove and the refrigerator. As a result, it's best to pull these appliances off the wall each spring, sweeping or vacuuming the dust and crumbs you find before mopping the floors.

## What is a SRES?

A senior real estate specialist focuses on seniors (over 55) and the challenges that seniors face. Seniors could have unique issues with balancing finances, mobility, health and personal needs. There are three main ways in which an SRES can guide you in planning your future housing needs:

 I understand senior housing options. Part of understanding senior specific housing is knowing the type of features that seniors might need in a home.
 I can assist in dealing with financial options for real estate. This is not only for buying and selling a home but also understanding pensions, IRAs, 401K and other retirement accounts. I also can counsel on reverse mortgages, possible loan scams, Medicaid, Medicare and social security.

**3.** I will refer you to specialists outside of real estate. A senior might need an accountant, an attorney, household help, movers and estate clean out specialists. Please contact me if I can help with your real estate needs.

Sharon Flyter | Howard Hanna 440-477-2676







Swing into Spring

# 5 ideas for updating your space

hile spring naturally means it's time for a refresh for many homeowners, it doesn't mean you're limited only to a cleaning party. Take advantage of the season by using it as an opportunity to upgrade different areas of your home for reasons ranging from energy efficiency and convenience to ease of living and safety.

With increasing technology for smart home devices and ever-evolving design styles, upgrading your home can be nearly anything you make of it. These ideas include ways that you can add organization, revolutionize your home tech, increase energy efficiency, enhance security and more. Find more ways to enhance your space this spring at eLivingToday.com.



#### Natural Light, Fresh Air

Add natural light and fresh air to your home with an option like Velux No Leak Solar Powered Fresh Air Skylights featuring preinstalled light filtering or light blocking shades in more than 80 colors. The skylights use a solar panel to capture daylight and recharge a battery-operated control system. They can also be opened and closed via remote control or smartphone app, and a rain sensor closes the skylights during inclement weather. Find more information at whyskylights.com.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images



#### Elegant, Functional Shelving

Open shelving can add character, design and attractive storage to your home. For example, ClosetMaid's Ventilated Shelving exhibits simple elegance and is both an aesthetically pleasing way to showcase your favorite things and functional enough to keep linens fresh in the closet or hold clutter at bay by the front door. Made from solid wood and epoxy-coated steel, these shelves are easy to install, durable and can complement nearly any room. Learn more at closetmaid.com.

#### A Front Door Fixer Upper

Anytime is a good time to make sure your home is safe, particularly at what's often the main point of entry – your front door. This spring is an ideal time to keep out unwanted guests with a door that's sturdy and draft-resistant while also providing an aesthetic touch for enhanced curb appeal. When choosing a door that's right for your home, focus on options that include a strong deadbolt and thick frame for peace of mind.

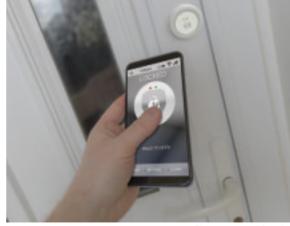


Photo courtesy of Getty Images



#### **Revolutionize Your Home**

Take your smart home setup to the next level with assistance from a product like the Google Home Hub. Its 7-inch touch screen and built-in Google Assistant technology answers your questions, shows you the weather and more using voice recognition software. The virtual assistant is available at retailers like Office Depot or OfficeMax, which offer Workonomy Tech Services to install smart home devices. It also works with other smart hubs. Find more information at officedepot.com.

### Smart Home Safety

With safety typically representing a top priority for most homeowners, taking advantage of smart technology can be one way to improve your feelings of safety and comfort in your home. A solution like a smart lock on the main entryway to your house can add security while also ensuring you're never locked out of your own home. With options that can pair with apps on your smartphone or feature keyless entry via unique numerical passwords, you can marry convenience with safety.

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# Time to replace old wiring?

Old homes can be charming and contain architectural elements not often seen in many modern housing developments. But what older homes may have in design appeal, they may lack in updated features.

While cosmetic changes are not necessarily difficult, one area of concern in historic homes — and sometimes even in houses built 40 or 50 years ago — is archaic wiring. Wiring provides power to every room of the home. In today's electronicsdriven society, electricity that works is an essential component of daily life. Over time, wiring can be compromised through simple aging, pest infiltration, weather, or other conditions. Deteriorated wiring can present a shock hazard and also a serious fire hazard, warn the home renovation experts at The Spruce, Furthermore, the home improvement site This Old House advises that the amperage of old wiring may not be able to meet the needs of the devices used in homes — overpowering the circuits. This can cause breaker blowouts and other problems, such as overheated wires that may spark and cause fires from within the wall.

Wiring often falls into the "out of sight, out of mind" category. Homeowners may make allowances for inadequate electrical systems, such as running extension cords or using multiplug connectors to increase their wiring capacity. However, they may not be diligently keeping on top of upgrades needed to stay safe. Confirming that a home's electrical system is safe is a necessary part of home maintenance.

For those who haven't already done so, schedule an inspection with a licensed electrician to go over the home's wiring. He or she can determine if any areas pose a safety risk and/or do not conform to local code requirements and the National Electrical Code. Failure to meet code can lead to difficulty obtaining permits to make other home renovations, or difficulty selling a home later on.

The electrician can also go over improvements that can improve safety and function. Additional outlets, including GFCI outlets in kitchens and bathrooms, may be part of the plan, as well as rewiring a fuse box or circuit panel to allow for better flow of power around the house. Frayed wiring or underinsulated wiring also may need to be replaced.

Owners of old homes should recognize possible electrical system dangers that require attention. Plus, considering electrical codes change quite frequently, it is always in a homeowner's best interest to work with a qualified electrician to keep wiring inspected and up to date.



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## For Service You Can Count On

How is the market? It is springing into action! Buyers are visiting open houses and sellers are putting their homes on the market. It is a true sign of spring. What should you know if you are considering a move in 2019? Interest rates continue to be at all-time lows. All sources had predicted an uptick in rates in 2018. It did not happen. At Howard Hanna, we have buyers and we are on the hunt to find them the right home.

My name is Dawna Smith-Miheli. I am a real estate professional with over 30 years of experience. If you are a buyer, allow me to set you up to receive new listings immediately. Our system has artificial

## Did you know?

One way to improve curb appeal and set a property apart from others is to add decorative effects to walkways, patios and driveways. Although many homeowners turn to materials such as pavers, flagstone or brick for these purposes, a versatile and often cost-effective idea is to rely on stamped concrete. Stamped concrete, often called textured or imprinted concrete, is textured, intelligence and will bring to the forefront what most likely meets your needs. Very cool! If you are a seller, let me share how Howard Hanna's Exclusive Money Back Guarantee can help you sell your house for more money and before your competition.

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Dawna Smith Miheli 216.347.9994 dawnasmith-miheli@howardhanna.com

patterned or embossed to mimic the look of other materials, notably brick, slate, flagstone, stone, tile, and wood. Stamped concrete can be used on patios, sidewalks, driveways, pool decks, and even interior flooring. The concrete is poured and then patterned using special tools. Installing stamped concrete is best left to concrete design specialists with extensive experience in this difficult craft.



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# Rethink your kitchen layout

Kitchens are the most popular rooms in many homes. Even though The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics states the average person spends just 68 minutes each weekday consuming food, and around 37 minutes preparing meals, the kitchen is not just a spot for food. It also is a gathering place for conversation, homework and family time.

In recognition that so much time is spent in this heart of the home, many people are embracing some of the more popular trends concerning kitchen layouts to maximize the comfort and efficiency of these rooms.

SEE PAGE 14>

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# **Benefits of freestanding tubs**

Few home design elements provide the instant wow factor of freestanding tubs. Freestanding tubs have an air of luxury that can help current homeowners relax, and impress buyers when homes go on the market.

Freestanding tubs are typically made of cast iron or porcelain. The home improvement website HomeAdvisor notes that cast iron is durable and solid and retains heat well, which is great for those who want to spend more than a little time relaxing in a freestanding tub. However, because cast iron is so heavy, installing a cast iron tub may require structural reinforcement of the flooring, which will add to the overall cost of the project.

According to HomeAdvisor, the average cost to install a tub varies widely depending on the type of tub, the materials its made of and other factors, including plumbing and piping. For example, the cost to install a freestanding tub will rise considerably if new plumbing and piping are necessary.

Before purchasing a freestanding tub, homeowners should seek estimates regarding installation, making sure to get them in writing. Contractors will determine if structural reinforcement is necessary and include such costs in their estimates. In addition, make sure to ask contractors to investigate piping and plumbing so no surprises pop up after the tub has been purchased and work has begun.

If estimates from contractors aren't budget busting, homeowners can consider these benefits of freestanding tubs before making their final decisions.

• Cleaning: Because they're detached from other bathroom fixtures and not flush against the wall, freestanding tubs tend to be easier to clean than built-in bathtubs. Freestanding tubs are accessible from all sides, making it easy to reach all those nooks and crannies where grime can build up.

 Return on investment: In its 2018 "Cost vs. Value" report, Remodeling magazine noted that upscale bathroom remodels recouped 56.2 percent of their cost at resale. That was a better return on investment than an upscale kitchen remodel (53.5 percent) and an upscale master suite addition (48.3 percent). The thought of a sizable return on investment can make relaxing in a freestand-





ing tub that much more enjoyable.

• Warmth: Even freestanding tubs made of materials other than cast iron offer great heat retention. Stone resin bathtubs, for example, provide excellent insulation on cold nights. That's ideal for people who want to unwind in the tub without having to exit early because the water has become cold.

Freestanding tubs can transform regular bathrooms into luxurious oases.

## **KITCHEN LAYOUT** FROM PAGE 13

#### Communal zones

Unlike the days of yore when the kitchen was utilitarian, today's home floor plans make kitchens a focal point of a home. Food preparation also is no longer a solitary task. Thanks to larger kitchen footprints and multiple zones set up for meal creation. a greater number of people can hang out in the kitchen and help with meals. You'll find multiple sinks, large islands and more counter space are key components of modern kitchen lavouts.

#### **Dining nooks**

Kitchen designs are bringing back banquette seating in a cozy nook. This design is a practical use of space, and can fit in large and small kitchens alike. It also can give a kitchen a high-end look, as built-in banquettes can highlight a bay window or seem custom-made for the space. Banquette seating can fit a number of people comfortably and provides a sensible and casual dining spot solution.

#### Family table

The trend experts at Southern Living magazine indicate that formal dining and living rooms are now used infrequently. As a result, kitchens have evolved to accommodate meal prep and dining. A large family table in the center of the room brings people into the kitchen to get more involved with food, according to San Francisco designer David Kensington.

#### **Counter culture**

Taking a page out of a favorite corner diner or bar, kitchens are increasingly outfitted with a large island flanked by chic counter stools, according to the design pros at Domino. Family members can pull up a stool and grab a quick snack. It's also a great place for friends to engage in conversation while a host or hostess prepares cocktails and appetizers for an evening soirée. Work zone

Many families like to have an area of the kitchen set up as a tech zone where kids can do their homework and even parents can do some work, such as paying bills. Setting aside an area of counter space as a small desk area can be a great idea. Such areas also help parents keep a watchful eye on children while they're surfing the internet.

Kitchens are the hub of the household, and modern design trends cater to a growing need for a multipurpose space.



## 5 things to look for when selecting a lawn service

Most people want beautiful, lush lawns and well-maintained landscapes. Not every homeowner has the time or the inclination to do the work, however. Many homeowners rely on a lawn service to help maintain their properties and keep their homes looking great.

Lawn companies come in all shapes and sizes — from fly-by-night workers with ill-maintained equipment to franchised companies with thousands of workers across the country to everything in between. Finding the right service for your needs may require some homework and understanding of what sets a quality lawn service company apart from one that's best avoided.

#### 1. Look to the internet.

The internet connects consumers via shared information and reviews. Reading company and product reviews on Yelp and Angie's List can help homeowners make informed decisions. Homeowners also can seek recommendations via local Facebook group pages.

#### 2. Insist on licensure and insurance.

It's not the standard to be licensed and insured, but it is an essential step for finding a business that stands behind its work and the safety of its employees and customers. If a worker gets injured on your property or if the mower kicks a big rock through your storm door, you'll be liable if the company isn't insured.

#### 3. Get a written proposal.

Be wary of companies that will quote you an offer over the phone without seeing your property in person. Understand which types of services and treatments will be included in the weekly, monthly or annual plan. Discuss the types of fertilizers and herbicides used and whether they fit with your lifestyle and environmental consciousness.

#### 4. Ask for a contract in writing

When you find a business that offers the type of work you need done at the right price, be sure that a contract is worked up and both parties sign it. This protects you as a homeowner and could help you in the long run if guarantees are not met or work is unsatisfactory.

#### 5. One size fits all.

Landscaping is more than just mowing the lawn. However, some lawn companies may only mow lawns and will plant flowers or perform spring and fall cleanup. If a company cannot fill all of your needs, find one that can; otherwise, you may need to hire specialists in each area of yard maintenance.

Lawn care companies are something to consider as the weather warms and spring projects begin anew.

# DIY PAINT PROJECT FROM PAGE 3

fections. Then wipe down surfaces you plan to paint with warm water, which helps remove dirt and dust that can sometimes prevent paint from adhering. If possible, open windows for better ventilation once you're ready to start.

**Clean up.** When the painting process is finished and you're appreciating the hard work, don't forget the job isn't done until you've properly cleaned up. Paint brushes and roller covers should be washed promptly after use to ensure they can be used again. Use warm water and mild detergent to clean then let air dry. If you end up with leftover paint, it can be helpful to save some for future touch-ups. One helpful tip is to write on the can what room or walls you painted, the date and color name. This information can be beneficial should you need to purchase more paint at a later date.

# **Tips For Choosing Carpet!**

Since carpet is such an important decision and permanent choice to make, here are a few tips to help you in your decision:

Consider the way you live - if you have an active family and pets then look for a hardwearing carpet in a forgiving color. If you're a couple looking for a touch of

luxury, you might opt for a plush pile in a flat color. Familiarize yourself with how color effects a room -

darker colors help make a room appear homier. Lighter colors make a room appear larger. One popular option is to choose a carpet that combines two colors in a subtle blend.

Padding is important - don't try to save a few dollars by going with less expensive padding. Carpeting relies on a layer of padding for support, strength and some extra cushioning. You might not be able to see the padding, but you'll definitely spot the extra wear and tear on your new carpet if you pick an inadequate padding material. It's also important to match the padding to the type of carpet you plan to use.

Consider your preferred fiber type - carpets are available in a wide variety of fibers and mixes. No one fiber is perfect for all situations, but try to think about factors such as fade resistance, traffic, moisture exposure, lifetime, feel, and budget.

Or – just ask us! Carpet & Flooring Mill Outlet in Willoughby is one of the largest stocking carpet & flooring stores in Ohio and our knowledgeable staff is ready to assist you with all of your flooring needs! We are proud to bring wholesale flooring buying power to the public! Serving all of Northeast Ohio, including Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula & Cuyahoga counties, we pass giant flooring savings on to YOU! We have a HUGE INVENTORY OF CARPET & FLOORING IN STOCK! Residential & commercial customers can choose from in-stock carpet, laminate flooring, hardwood flooring, vinyl tile, vinyl plank, & sheet lino. And remember -- SAME DAY INSTALL is not only possible, but a breeze with our professional flooring & carpet installers. We are experienced & friendly and you can rest assured that your flooring will be installed right the first time! Call us at 440-953-3567!





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