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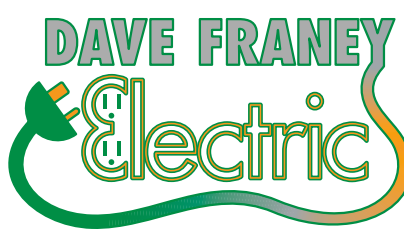
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Interior design: 9 trends you'll see everywhere in 2027

Thinking about giving your home a refresh to bring it up to date? Get inspired by these nine design trends set to beautify homes in 2027.

White shaker cabinets. These cabinets are a must-have if you're looking for versatility in design. With their simple, timeless lines, they easily blend into any decor. They're a sure bet to make your kitchen look fresh.

Crown molding. Long associated with classic-style homes, crown molding is a staple in interior upgrades, and its popularity is soaring. It automatically adds a touch of elegance to rooms, even in contemporary interiors.

Pot fillers. A swivel faucet installed near the stove for filling pots is more than a

simple convenience; it's a premium feature in culinary design. Popular in high-end kitchens, they're becoming an in-demand decor addition. Expect to see them show up in more home kitchens in 2027.

Grandma chic. This warm trend blends traditional charm with modern touches. Drawing inspiration from the elegant homes of yesteryear, it features vintage lamps, gingham prints, fringed cushions, retro knick-knacks, thick pile rugs and furniture that tells a story.

Structured curves. The rounded, voluminous shapes that have been quite popular in recent years are giving way to more balanced designs. In 2027, furniture and architectural elements will feature more understated, flowing curves.

Wood with natural edges. Solid wood tables and countertops with uncut edges reflect a growing appreciation for raw,

CONTINUED >>>





organic materials. Artisanal craftsmanship and authenticity have never been more in demand!

The underwater theme. Anything that evokes the depths of the ocean lends interiors an air of calm, magic and mystery. Shimmering materials, soft lighting and hues of navy blue will evoke serenity — and awaken your inner mermaid!

Silver-toned metal. Following the trend of warm metal tones like brass, cooler metals are making a strong comeback. Whether for furniture, decorative accessories or lighting, you can bet chrome, nickel, aluminum and stainless steel will be your best decor allies.



Neutral tones. In 2027, neutral tones will dominate, as they're ideal for creating serene interiors but easily lend themselves to accents of color. Palettes with tones of beige or light gray provide a perfect base for a contrasting canvas. Touches of vibrant color, such as emerald green or cobalt blue, add energy and interest.

Are you inspired by these trends but lacking the confidence or experience to undertake a home makeover project? Why worry when you can trust the experts?

Designers, decorators, stylists and interior design consultants are always on the lookout for the latest trends. Hire a professional with impeccable style to give you guidance. ■

How to tell your story through interior design

Interior design is a tool for self-expression and a way to convey your personal story, values and experiences. Here are six ideas to help you tell your unique story through your home's interior design.

Personal art and collections. Showcase your personality and interests by displaying personal art, photographs or collections.

Colors. Choose a color scheme that resonates with your emotions and experiences. Warm, earthy tones can create a cozy, welcoming atmosphere, while vibrant colors can express energy and creativity.

Texture and materials. Incorporate textures and materials that reflect your lifestyle and experiences. Natural wood and stone convey a connection to nature. Metallic accents can suggest modernity and sophistication.

Customization. Furniture, hand-crafted pieces or personalized wall art can be tailored to your tastes and experiences, making them meaningful additions to your home.

Storytelling décor. This could be a vintage map representing your travels, a bookshelf filled with your favorite reads or a tapestry from a place that holds sentimental value. These elements can serve as visual storytelling devices.

Personalized spaces. Dedicate specific areas of your home to different aspects of your life. Create a reading nook, a meditation corner or a hobby space that speaks to your interests and passions.

Visit your local stores for inspiration and enlist the help of an interior designer for more great ideas. ■



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A few tips to save on heating this winter

As the temperature drops, are you feeling increasingly anxious about high energy bills? No need to panic. Here are a few simple steps to help you save on heating.

Lower the thermostat slightly
Did you know that by adjusting the ambient temperature in your home just a little — for example, set your thermostat to 66 F instead of 68 F — you could see a reduction in your energy bill by five to seven percent? To compensate for the temperature difference, open the curtains during the day to let in the sunlight. You may not even feel the change.

Cut back on hot water use
After home heating, water heating is the biggest drain on your budget. Instead of long baths, try taking short showers. Also, consider installing

low-flow faucets and running the dishwasher only when it's full. Your wallet will thank you.

Make small changes part of your daily routine
Dusty radiators are less effective at spreading heat, so be sure to dust them regularly. Do you have a load of unwashed clothes waiting in the laundry room? Select cold-water cycles on your machine and spare the hot water for washes where it's needed. Add it all up, and these small actions will lower your bills.

Everyone can save on heating. Interested in making long-term savings? Contact a local company to refresh the seals around your doors and windows and make your home airtight for winter. ■



4 tips for soft, fluffy towels



Wondering how to keep your towels cuddly soft after every wash? Try these tips.

Reduce the amount of detergent
Many people put too much detergent in the washing machine. Towels, because of their absorbent nature, tend to soak up excess detergent. The residue left behind compromises the fabric's softness.

Make friends with white vinegar
Add a cup of white vinegar to the washer drum before starting a load of towels. This simple kitchen product dissolves detergent crystals and eliminates odors. It's even more effective with warm or hot water.

Avoid liquid fabric softeners
Over time, fabric softener breaks down the fibers that help towels absorb water effectively and keep them soft. Natural wool dryer balls make a nice alternative to conventional fabric softeners. You can find them at your local home supply stores.

Maintain your washing machine periodically
Don't forget to clean your washing machine from time to time. Run a hot cycle without clothes. Add a quarter cup of bleach or use cleaning tablets designed to be placed directly in the drum.

That's it! By using these tips, you'll get soft towels in every wash. ■

“Should I get a wine cellar or a wine cooler?”

Any wine connoisseur appreciates the classic look of a stunning glass-fronted cabinet to display their collection. But what are the differences between a wine cellar and a wine cooler? Here's what you need to know to make the right choice.

Distinct functions
There are different types of wine consumers. Some people buy a bottle intending to open it relatively quickly, usually within the year. Others are looking for wines meant for aging; they purchase a vintage with the intent to store it and let it mature. For these different approaches, the distinction between a wine cellar and a wine cooler matters.

Wine cellars are designed to maintain all the necessary conditions for proper wine aging. Wine coolers function like a refrigerator. They maintain the wine's ideal serving temperature.

Differences in components
The wine cellar is designed to minimize wine spoilage, so some of its components are constructed for this distinct purpose. Its compressor may be mounted on shock absorbers to eliminate vibrations transmitted to the bottles. Its evaporator helps maintain adequate humidity, so that the corks remain airtight and supple.

Additionally, the glass doors on a wine cellar will be tinted differently from those on a wine cooler. When treated to filter out UV rays, these doors provide even greater long-term protecti-

on for wines. Note, however, that wine coolers typically cost less than wine cellars.

Having trouble choosing the right unit? Consult a professional at a specialty appliance store near you. ■



Design the perfect outdoor lounge area!



Oh, how great it feels to relax around a cozy fire. Do you own an outdoor fireplace? Perhaps you're thinking of investing in one? First of all, make sure that your fireplace complies with your local bylaws. All set? Here are several tips for designing the perfect outdoor lounge area.

First, make sure you've dedicated enough space for your guests to relax comfortably. Adirondack chairs, swings, wooden benches, wicker loungers, hammocks — opt for variety! And don't forget to include enough blankets and cushions to create a soft, cozy environment.

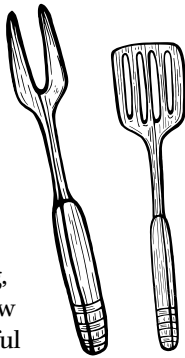
Next, place one or more side tables around the seating area so that you and your guests can set down glasses, plates, phones and any other objects you prefer to keep close at hand.

Finally, hang garlands of twinkling lights in your trees, and line the path between your house and your lounge area with decorative lanterns. This way, you'll create a space that's not only warm but also safe to enjoy at night! ■

Cooking on the BBQ in winter: a gourmet trend

Grilling isn't only a summer activity!

Does the thought of putting away your barbecue for the season bring a tear to your eye? Good news! With a bit of organization and some helpful accessories, you can easily continue grilling, even in the cold. Follow these tips for a successful barbecuing experience all winter long.



Do you want to prevent cold wind and inclement weather from interfering with your cooking? Consider setting up a wooden or canvas shelter, such as a tarp, around your barbecue. Remember, never cook in an enclosed space!

If you have a deck or patio, position your BBQ close to the door for easy access. However, be mindful not to repeatedly open and close the door, as this could increase your heating bill.

Wear warm clothing but avoid anything that could touch the grates or catch fire. For example, a neck warmer is a much safer option than a long scarf. Consider investing in mittens or gloves designed for barbecuing to stay warm and safe.

Since it gets dark early in the winter, it's important to have adequate lighting. A headlamp is a smart choice; just make sure it fits comfortably on your head.

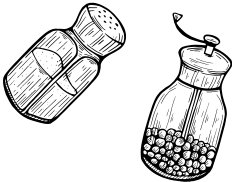
It's important to note that propane and coal-fired barbecues require more fuel in winter. Your grill will take longer to heat and use more fuel to maintain the right temperature. Therefore, ensure you have enough fuel to avoid any unpleasant surprises.

Finally, having a shovel and a snow brush on hand is a must. Happy grilling!



If you want to save time when cooking outdoors, choose foods that cook quickly and require minimal supervision.

8 steps for getting perfectly grilled burgers at home



To wow your guests with perfectly grilled burgers at your next cookout, follow these eight steps.

1. Use medium ground beef instead of lean for a tastier burger. You can also mix different meats like pork or lamb.
2. Season your meat with enough salt and pepper to give it some flavor. Add other seasonings as desired.
3. Make your patties the same size to ensure they cook within an identical timeframe. Using a kitchen scale or measuring cup will help. A quarter pound (or approximately half a cup)



is ideal for creating patties.

4. Flatten the patties before grilling them and use your finger to make shallow divots in the middles. This will prevent your burgers from becoming dome shaped.
 5. Get a good sear on the outside of your patty by getting the grill very hot before putting the burgers on.
 6. Only flip them once. Rotating, squashing or moving them around will cause your meat to become tough.
 7. Cook for three minutes on each side for medium rare (not recommended when using pork), four minutes a side for medium or five minutes a side for well-done burgers.
 8. Allow your burgers to sit for five minutes before eating.
- Toast some buns, garnish with your favorite toppings and enjoy!

Delectable recipes for a memorable holiday season!

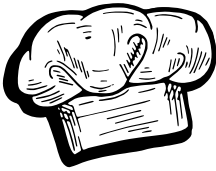


Stuffed BBQ mushrooms

A barbecue with a lid is best for cooking this easy side dish. If yours doesn't fit the description, you can turn over a large metal bowl and place it on the grill to create a dome over the mushrooms. This recipe is best prepared in advance; the stuffing can last up to 24 hours in the fridge.

Ingredients

- 16 medium-large white button mushrooms
- Vegetable oil
- 10.5 oz. ground sausage meat
- 1 onion
- 2 celery sticks
- 1 garlic clove
- Salt and pepper
- 10.5 oz. thinly sliced cheese (choose a flavorful variety that melts well like Gruyere, cheddar or Emmental)



Servings: 16

Preparation

1. Carefully cut off the mushroom stems. Heat a small amount of vegetable oil in a skillet and brown the sausage meat. Finely chop the onion, celery, mushroom stems and garlic and cook with the sausage for 5 to 7 minutes, or until the meat is cooked through and the onions are translucent. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
2. Once the mixture has cooled, stuff the mushrooms and cover each one with a slice of cheese.
3. Preheat the barbecue to medium heat. Place the mushrooms on the grill and close the lid (or cover with a large metal bowl). Cook for 6 to 8 minutes until the mushrooms are nice and tender and the cheese has melted. Serve as an appetizer or a side dish.

Servings: 1

Festive spritz



This sparkling and colorful cocktail is the perfect way to get your party started with style!

Ingredients

- 2 ounces bitter liqueur (Aperol or Amermelade-style liqueur)
- 3 ounces sparkling wine
- Club soda, to top it off
- Ice cubes
- 1 orange wedge
- A few fresh mint leaves

Directions

1. Pour the bitter liqueur and sparkling wine into a pretty glass. Top it up with club soda.
2. Add a few ice cubes, and then garnish with the orange wedge and fresh mint.



Perfect blueberry mocktail

Looking for an alcohol-free cocktail that will please all your guests? This tasty sparkling blueberry drink is sure to be a hit!

Servings: 1



Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons fresh blueberries
- About 6 fresh mint leaves
- ½ lime, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon simple syrup, to top up
- Sparkling lime water
- Ice cubes

Directions

- Place the blueberries, half the mint leaves and half the lime slices in a pretty glass. Using a muddler, crush the ingredients to form a puree.
- Pour in the simple syrup and top up with sparkling water.
- Add ice cubes and garnish with the remaining mint and lime.

Dauphinois-style potato gratin with cream

Treat (and impress!) all your guests this year with these sophisticated potatoes.

- Ingredients**
- 2 tablespoons butter
 - 2 cloves garlic
 - 5 or 6 Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled
 - 1 ½ cups 35% heavy whipping cream
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 - Salt and pepper, to taste
 - 1 ½ cups sharp cheddar cheese, grated
 - Fresh parsley, chopped (optional)

Directions

Preheat the oven to 375 F. Generously butter a cast-iron skillet or ovenproof dish. Rub the bottom of the dish with the halved garlic cloves for added flavor. Discard the garlic.

Using a mandolin or a sharp knife, cut the potatoes into thin slices that are about an eighth of an inch thick.

In a saucepan, gently heat the heavy whipping cream with a minced clove of garlic, nutmeg, salt and pepper. Add the potato slices to the hot cream. Simmer gently for five minutes to soften (do not boil).

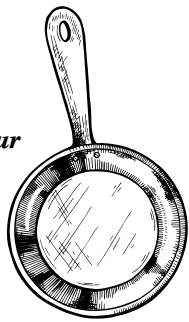
Transfer everything to the buttered dish, spreading the potatoes in even layers. Pour the rest of the cream over the potatoes. Sprinkle evenly with grated cheese.

Cover with aluminum foil and bake in the oven for 30 minutes. Remove the foil and continue baking for 20 to 25 minutes, until the top is golden brown and bubbling.

Let the pan rest for 10 minutes before serving. Garnish with fresh parsley, if desired.



Servings: 6



Apple and maple tart

Simple yet sophisticated, this flaky apple tart will delight all your guests.

- Ingredients**
- 1 package of puff pastry
 - 1/3 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped
 - 2 tablespoons maple syrup
 - 2 tablespoons melted butter
 - 3 tablespoons brown sugar
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 2 red apples
 - 1 egg
 - 1 tablespoon water
 - A few sprigs of fresh thyme



Directions

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Unroll the puff pastry onto the baking sheet and let it come to room temperature.

In a small bowl, mix the walnuts and maple syrup. Set aside.

In another small bowl, combine the melted butter, brown sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Spread half of this mixture in the center of the pastry, leaving a 3/4-inch border all around.

Cut the apples into thin slices. Arrange the slices in slightly overlapping rows over the brown sugar mixture. Brush the remaining brown sugar mixture onto the apple slices. Fold the edges of the pastry slightly inward.

Whisk the egg with the water and brush the edges of the pastry with it. Sprinkle the sweetened walnuts over the apples.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until the pastry is golden brown and crisp. Let cool for a few minutes before cutting into squares. Garnish with a few fresh thyme leaves just before serving.



Servings: 6

Sauteed Brussels sprouts with pancetta

Deliciously indulgent, this side dish is an excellent way to showcase a classic vegetable that's bursting with flavor.

- Ingredients**
- 4 cups Brussels sprouts, halved
 - 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
 - 1 cup pancetta, finely diced
 - Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

Fill a large pot with salted water and bring to a boil. Place a steamer basket or metal colander over the pot, making sure the bottom doesn't touch the water.

For each Brussels sprout half, remove any wilted outer leaves, and make a small incision in the base. Steam the sprouts for four minutes. Immediately plunge them into a bowl of ice water to stop the cooking process, then drain.

Meanwhile, fry the pancetta cubes over medium-high heat in a cast-iron skillet. When the cubes start to brown, add the garlic and Brussels sprouts. Continue cooking until everything is nicely browned. Season with salt and pepper to taste.



Servings: 6

Maple-arugula pizza

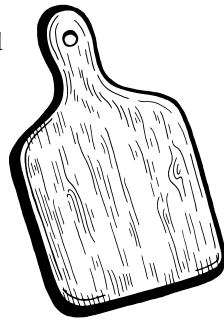
Servings: 4

- Ingredients**
- 4 fresh Italian tomatoes or small tomatoes, sliced
 - 2/3 cup maple vinegar OR 1/2 cup cider vinegar
 - 1/4 cup maple syrup (preferably amber syrup)
 - 4 pieces of flatbread, thick pitas or naan
 - 4 tbsp (or more if desired) basil pesto
 - 2 fresh mozzarella balls, 1/2 pound each, sliced
 - 1/4 cup Parmesan, grated
 - Salt and ground pepper
 - 2 cups baby arugula

- Directions**
1. Lay the tomato slices on paper towels and leave them for 5 minutes to draw out excess moisture.
 2. Pour the maple vinegar or cider vinegar and mix with the maple syrup in a saucepan and boil it for 5 to 7 minutes or until it takes on the consistency of thick syrup. Remove from heat and pour into a bowl to stop it from cooking further. Set aside.
 3. Preheat oven to 425° F.
 4. Arrange your pieces of bread on 2 baking sheets. Brush with pesto, lay on the tomatoes, mozzarella, and Parmesan, then season to taste with salt and pepper.
 5. Bake 12 to 15 minutes.
 6. Place pizzas on plates and garnish with arugula and the maple reduction.

Storing

The maple reduction will keep at room temperature for several weeks. It will crystallize if overly reduced. The pizzas will keep in the fridge for 3 to 4 days.





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5 things to consider when buying a rural property



Investing in a rural property can be an exciting venture, offering stillness, space and a closer connection to nature. However, before making such a significant decision, it's crucial to consider the following factors to ensure a smooth transition:

- 1. Accessibility.** Think about how easy it will be to get to and from your property, especially during bad weather. For example, make sure that the property is on a well-serviced road or prepare yourself for difficulties if the property is located on a dirt road that may become impassable during heavy rain or snowfall.
- 2. Community dynamics.** Find out how close you are to amenities such as grocery stores, healthcare facilities, schools and recreational activities. You should also consider the sense of community and social opportunities available in the area.
- 3. Environmental considerations.** Assess environmental factors like soil quality, water sources and the risk of natural disasters like floods or wildfires. Consult with local experts or agencies to better understand these factors.
- 4. Infrastructure and utilities.** Check for availability and costs associated with utilities like water, electricity and internet connectivity. Septic systems and wells are also common in rural areas, so inquire about their condition and maintenance requirements.
- 5. Zoning and land use regulations.** Research local zoning laws and land use regulations to ensure that your intended use of the property aligns with zoning restrictions. Also, inquire about any future development plans in the area.

With these simple points in mind, you can make an informed decision when purchasing a rural property and ensure it meets all your needs and expectations for a fulfilling countryside lifestyle. ■

3 things to consider when buying a waterfront property

Do you want to buy a home near the sea, close to a river or on a lake? Whether you're considering building or buying an existing home, there are several things you need to know before moving near water.

- 1. High price tag**
Homes with direct access to the water usually have a high price tag. For example, maintaining a dock or seawall adds to the total cost of the property. You don't get that same easy access with a water-view property and may have to rent a space for your boat if you enjoy water activities.
- 2. Increased risk**
Although properties near water offer beautiful scenery, they come with added risks, including frequent repairs due to wind and possible flooding. Moreover, your insurance premium will likely increase and should be factored into your budget.
- 3. Proximity to services**
Not all properties near water have the same access to certain services, such as drinking water, electricity, internet and local shops. Additionally, being close to the water doesn't necessarily mean you'll be able to use a boat. Some municipalities prohibit gas-powered watercraft because of noise and safety concerns.

Are you looking forward to owning a waterfront property? Contact a real estate broker or contractor to help you find your dream home. ■



What architectural style should you choose for your home? Here are 3 suggestions!

Did you recently buy a plot of land? Is your architect waiting for your input before drawing up the plans for the house? You must provide them with some guidance if you want your vision to become a reality. Here are three popular architectural styles to help you decide:

- 1. Ranch**
A ranch-style home might be the answer if functionality is a top priority. This single-storey design has an open-plan layout. This means the rooms are spacious and interconnected. This style is also great if you love spending time outdoors, as it provides easy access to the backyard.
- 2. Scandinavian**
Scandinavian style might suit you if you prefer a minimalist and uncluttered design. This style has been gaining popularity in North America because of its abundance of windows that let in natural light. Wood and metal cladding are often used to create exciting contrasts and highlight specific parts of the building.
- 3. Modern farmhouse**
If you love the charm of exposed wooden beams and gabled roofs, this style could be perfect. Inspired by 19th-century American farmhouses, it combines elegance and tradition. Many homes in



this style sport a white facade with dark window trims and doors that will turn heads.

Choosing an architectural style is a crucial decision when building a new home. Don't hesitate to talk to your architect if you're having trouble deciding. They can provide invaluable advice and ensure your design meets local building standards. ■

4 signs tiny home living is right for you



Tiny home living is becoming increasingly popular across North America. As real estate prices continue to rise, people are turning to creative solutions to live debt free. Here are four signs that downsizing your living space may be the right move.

- 1. You want to live a minimalist lifestyle.** Storage space is at a premium in tiny homes. Therefore, you'll be forced to get rid of things you don't need.
- 2. You can't see yourself settling in one place.** Many tiny homes are built on trailers with wheels. This allows you to take off whenever you want and drive to a new destination.
- 3. You don't want to be stuck paying a large mortgage.** Although a tiny home requires an upfront investment, it costs much less than a conventional home. Utilities, maintenance and repair costs are also considerably more affordable.
- 4. You care about the environment.** Tiny homes are much more energy efficient and environmentally friendly than full-size houses. For example, living small uses less fuel, electricity and water. ■



5 indoor checks to make before winter hits

The comfort of a warm fireplace on a cold winter's night is like no other. However, you must complete a few tasks this fall to keep your home safe and secure through those long, cold months. Use this guide to get your house's interior ready to face Mother Nature's fury.

Heating system

If you're waiting until the first frost to ensure your heaters are in good working order, you may be in for a nasty surprise. Before turning on your heat sources, ensure they have at least four inches of clearance. Take



this opportunity to inspect and clean the units. Better yet, hire a professional to take care of it for you.

Doors and windows

Remove fly screens to prevent condensation and safeguard them against the elements. Check the window and door frames to ensure they're tightly sealed. If necessary, caulk any vulnerable spots or replace the weatherstrip.

Fire detectors and extinguishers

Check that your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors work by pressing the test button and listening for a beep. Replace the batteries if you haven't done so recently. Additionally, take a glance at your fire extinguishers and ensure the seal is still intact so they're ready for action in case of emergency.

Air exchanger and ducts

Give your air exchanger's filters and screens a good washing to ensure you and your fa-

mily breathe clean air all winter long. Moreover, vacuum out the air ducts to remove any dust that's accumulated.

Sump pump

Check that your sump pump is functioning correctly. To do so, gradually pour a bucket of water into the tank. The pump should immediately activate to clear out the water.



Air conditioner

Carefully store your portable or window-mounted air conditioner to protect it from bad weather and dust accumulation. Before you put it away, remember to clean the filters.

Autumn checklist: how to winterproof your house's exterior

Whether or not you dread winter weather, one thing is certain: your home and garden need some protection. Here's a list of tasks to get your home's exterior winter-ready.

Clear the gutters. Clean out the eavestroughs to enable good water drainage. Ideally, wait until the trees have dropped all their leaves.

Prune your trees. Trim away any tree limbs at risk of falling on your house in a violent gust. Likewise, get rid of any branches that could give pests access to your home.



Inspect the roof. Ensure your roof is in perfect condition. If you see any problems, don't delay getting the necessary repairs.

Seal up cracks. Sniff out any gaps in your foundations and walls and seal them up to prevent water from seeping in and doing some severe damage.

Screen up your vents. Install screens on your vents to prevent small animals from taking refuge inside your home.

Close your pool. Lower the water level, clean the filter and put the ladder and other accessories in storage.

Clear the coping. Remove any accumulated debris from your pool coping, and check that the drain is working well to prevent flooding.

Sweep out the chimney. A thorough chimney cleaning is essential for preventing chimney fires.

Put seasonal items in storage. Put away



patio furniture, barbecues, gardening tools and garden hoses. Don't forget to shut down water outlets.

Weather-proof your plants. Wrap your shrubs in burlap or landscape cloth. Move potted plants indoors to protect them from the elements.

Prepare your flower beds. Plant your fall bulbs, separate the perennials, remove weeds and annuals and then aerate and nourish the soil.

Clean the grounds. Rake and bag your dead leaves and clear out dead wood and any other material that could serve as a hiding place for pests.

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GREEN IDEAS

Make smart use of a mini compost bin at home

Sorting food scraps is a simple, eco-friendly habit that anyone can do. It's even easier if you have a mini compost bin in your kitchen. Here's how to use yours for maximum effectiveness.

PLACE IT IN A STRATEGIC SPOT

To ensure it's used often, keep it on the countertop and in plain sight where everyone in the household can see it. You can also put it under the sink or near the trash bin, where it fits seamlessly into your cleaning routine.

EFFECTIVELY PREVENT ODORS

A little baking soda at the bottom of the bin, and you're all set. Clean it with water and white vinegar every time you empty it. Finally, keep a small container in the freezer for stronger-smelling compost materials: it's practical and effective.



What will homes look like in the future?

SMALLER HOMES

Current trends show that cities are becoming denser and that the cost of building materials is rising. All indicators suggest that homes will be smaller for cost efficiency. A smaller space equals a less expensive build and lower heating costs.

With greater urban density comes less space for road, water and electrical networks. It'll likely lead to greater efficiency for maintenance crews, as they'll have less distance to cover, resulting in lower municipal expenses.



ECO-FRIENDLY DESIGN

Extracting the minerals required to make concrete requires huge amounts of energy and leaves a large carbon footprint. Building with wood, a natural and renewable material, is a more responsible solution that will be in high demand in the future.

It's worth noting that interest in prefabricated homes will likely grow. These factory-made structures are quick to assemble and produce less waste than a traditional construction site. This design approach will improve community resilience.

The use of renewable energy will become more widespread, and the spread of smart home technologies will allow for automatic control of systems like heating and lighting. All these factors combined will make homes of the future more energy efficient.

Are you looking for sustainable solutions for building your new home? Contact a specialized contractor in your area.

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