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Most people dream about creating a welcoming, tidy and attractive home. However, creating a magazine-worthy space can be pricey. Fortunately, there are several inexpensive ways to make a stylish residence. Here are four smart ideas.

1. Display your fashion accessories
   Use nails, hooks, shelves or pegboard to artistically display your most beautiful, eccentric or elegant accessories like hats, evening bags, stilettos, watches and ties.

2. Create a bold accent wall
   Transform the end of a hallway or large wall into a statement piece. For example, you can use a contrasting paint color or apply a uniquely patterned wallpaper. Using recycled paint or liquidation wallpaper is even better.

3. Multiply the plants
   Walking into a room full of plants instantly makes you feel good. Fortunately, you can find beautiful, affordable and easy to care for plants at local stores. If your friends have green thumbs, ask them for a few cuttings.

4. Choose used accessories
   With some research, you can find one of a kind décor in classified ads, thrift stores, second-hand stores and garage sales. For example, you can pick up mirrors, knick-knacks, frames, lamps and vases in good condition at ridiculously low prices.

With a bit of imagination and resourcefulness, decorating your home can be affordable and fun.
Beautify your HOME

Interior door handles: how to make the best choice

Investing in a stylish handle can instantly elevate the look of your interior doors. Here’s a short guide to help you make the best choice.

Materials
Door handles are typically made of durable metals like steel, aluminum, brass, wrought iron and chrome. You can also find handles made of wood, plastic and porcelain. However, the internal mechanisms are always made of metal.

Types
Here’s an overview of the three main types of handles:

- Lever handles can either have a lock or no lock. They’re activated by raising or lowering the lever. In addition, you can find curved levers that are suitable for people with limited dexterity.
- Knob handles are usually round and have a locking mechanism. You can also purchase fixed knob handles that don’t need to be rotated or turned to open or close the door.
- Pull handles are fixed and can only be locked by purchasing a separate accessory.

3 types of light bulbs

Lighting is a crucial element of home decor, and it can be challenging to know what type of bulb is best. Here are three types of light bulbs and their uses.

1. Light-emitting diode (LED). LED bulbs are energy efficient. In fact, they consume 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. They give off a bright light, emit no heat and contain no mercury. They can last up to 50,000 hours, making them an excellent choice for hard-to-reach sockets.

2. Compact Fluorescent (CFL). CFL bulbs are almost as energy efficient as LEDs but require time to get bright. They’re excellent for illuminating large spaces like garages. They last between 6,000 and 10,000 hours and come in various colors. CFL bulbs contain mercury, so handle them carefully and dispose of them properly.

3. Halogen. These lights emit an intense directional light and are perfect for illuminating under kitchen cabinets and pendant or recessed lighting. You can use halogen bulbs with a dimmer. However, halogen bulbs burn hot, so keep them away from flammable objects. Handle them with gloves because the oil from your fingers can make them explode if they get too hot.

Trend: outdoor pizza ovens

Does the smell of pizza cooking make your mouth water? You may be interested in an outdoor pizza oven if you enjoy using your barbecue all four seasons. Here’s a closer look at this popular cooking appliance.

Available in various sizes, pizza ovens are typically fuelled by wood or propane. How-ever, the internal mechanisms are always made of metal.

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How to protect it
Pizza ovens are designed for outdoor use. However, protecting yours from ice, snow and sleet is essential. If you have a portable model, store it in an enclosed space like a shed. If you have a stationary oven or one that’s very heavy, cover it with a durable waterproof cover. Additionally, promptly remove fallen snow with a brush or broom.

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The benefits of vinyl flooring

Are you renovating your home or building a new abode? When it comes to flooring, keep in mind the undeniable advantages of vinyl.

Multiple qualities
This versatile material has been gaining popularity in the world of interior design. Modern vinyl flooring has the following benefits:

- It's cost-effective compared to other floor coverings.
- It's easy to maintain.
- It's scratch and scuff resistant, making it suitable for high-traffic areas.
- It's waterproof, making it practical for bathrooms and kitchens.
- It can be made to look like natural stone and wood.
- It's warmer underfoot than other types of flooring materials like tile.
- It's available in several formats, including rolls, tiles, and strips.

How to maintain wood flooring

How to choose and apply grout

Do you have a tiling project in mind? Here’s how to choose a suitable grout and correctly apply it.

Choose a grout
Sanded grout is most suitable for installations with grout lines wider than three millimeters. This type of grout is resistant to cracking and shrinkage. However, don’t use it if you’re laying tiles with a glossy finish, as it could scratch them.

On the other hand, grout without sand is best for narrow grout lines down to 1.5 millimeters. It’s also easy to apply to vertical surfaces. If you’re tiling a bathroom or kitchen, easy to apply to vertical surfaces. If you’re laying tiles with a glossy finish, as it could scratch them.

Apply the grout
First, protect the area around your tiling project. For example, cover walls and countertops with plastic sheeting. Then, clean the area to prevent dust and dirt from sticking to the grout.

If you’re using cementitious grout, start by mixing it. Next, wet the tiles and apply the grout from the bottom up in small sections. Lift the grout with a trowel and apply the grout from the bottom up in small sections. Lift the grout with a trowel and apply the grout to the grout everly and fill in the joints.

Remove excess grout and wait about 20 minutes before cleaning the tiles and smoothing the grout with a damp sponge. Scrub as little as possible and rinse your sponge regularly. Wipe down the tile one last time once the grout has thoroughly dried. Then, apply a sealer.

Keep an eye on for arches when planning home design and decorating projects for 2023. Their smooth lines, evocative of eastern ideals of space organization, promote inner balance and elevate your mood. Here are some ways to incorporate arches into your space.

Large scale remodel
If you’re planning a major renovation, consider incorporating arches in the structure of your home. Turn flooring thresholds into elegant arch entryways or install half-moon windows.

Visit a flooring retailer near you to discover the versatility of vinyl flooring.
Comfort food

Cinnamon buns

For brunch, dessert or simply to treat yourself, there’s never a bad time to indulge in a cinnamon bun. All the better if they’re homemade!

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup half-and-half cream
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 teaspoon instant yeast
- 2 Tablespoons melted butter
- 2 Tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 1 egg

Directions

1. In a large bowl, mix the flour, sugar, and salt. Cool over night.
2. In a large bowl, mix the yeast, half-and-half, and salt. Mix until all the ingredients are incorporated. Pour over the dry ingredients, and add the egg. Mix with a whisk or a fork until the dough is smooth and has a smooth bottom.
3. In a lightly floured surface, knead the dough for about 5 minutes. Place it in a clean, greased bowl, and cover it with a cloth. Let sit about 30 minutes.
4. In the meantime, mix the brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Set aside.
5. After the 30 minutes, place the dough on a floured surface and cut it into a rectangle (about 9 by 12). Sprinkle a nutmeg, spread the butter evenly over the dough, leaving 1 centimeter uncovered around the edge. Use your fingers to sprinkle the cinnamon sugar with the filling mixture.
6. Fold the edges to form a triangle. Use a knife to cut 12 even strips. Place each strip, as they are formed, on a greased baking sheet. Cover with the plastic wrap, and set in the refrigerator for an hour.
7. In the meantime, prepare the sauce in a small saucepan. Cover the pan with a plastic wrap, and set it aside about 15 minutes.
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Gnocchi with tomato sauce

When the air turns crisp, there’s nothing quite as comforting as a bowl of hearty soup to warm your belly and lift your spirits on a dreary day. These pillowy gnocchi are no exception.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup San Marzano tomatoes (28 ounces)
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 zucchini, diced
- 1 can green beans (14 ounces)
- 1 can diced tomatoes (28 ounces)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

1. In a large pot, pour the oil and melt the butter over medium-high heat. Add the onions and cook without browning. Add the garlic, and cook for another minute. Salt and pepper to taste.
2. Pour in the broth and let simmer for about 20 minutes, stirring constantly.
3. Add the green beans, zucchini, dried herbs and parmesan, and cook for another minute. Salt and pepper to taste.
4. In a large saucepan, add the gnocchi and the sauce. Cover and let simmer for about 15 minutes.
5. Remove the gnocchi from the oven and broil until the cheese is golden brown.
6. Serve alone or with rice, and garnish with basil leaves.
3 man cave ideas

A man cave is a place to escape the stresses of the day. You can turn an unfinished basement, attic or underutilized garage space into a place where you can indulge in hobbies or spend time with friends. Here are some ideas for your man cave.

1. Gamers
   - Build a home theater with comfortable seating and a large screen TV.
   - Add a gaming console with a variety of games.
   - Consider adding a bar area for serving snacks and drinks.

2. Beer lovers
   - Create a beer garden with outdoor seating, grill and garden hose faucet for easy cleaning.
   - Keep a beer collection and consider adding a kegerator for a more professional touch.

3. Sports fans
   - Add a big-screen TV and surround sound system.
   - Display your favorite sports memorabilia and jerseys.
   - Consider adding a snack bar with plenty of seating.

Beautify your HOME

5 ideas for a themed home bar

Are you thinking of setting up an at-home bar? Here are some themes to inspire you.

1. A tiki bar with palm trees and shells
2. A western bar with horseshoes and cow skulls
3. A sports bar with a giant flat-screen
4. An Irish bar with shamrocks and vintage metal plates
5. A man cave with crystal chandeliers and feathers

Contact a general contractor or interior designer in your area to help you create the bar of your dreams.

3 decorating tips for styling a room without windows

Whether you have a guest room, powder room or interior bathroom without a window, here are a few decorating tips to make it feel bright and inviting.

1. Paint the room a light color. Painting the walls and ceiling white, grey or beige can help add airiness to a dark room.
2. Hang a mirror. Windowless rooms can often feel small and cramped. Adding a large mirror or wall of mirrors deceives the eye into thinking the room is larger than it is and helps reflect light throughout the space.
3. Install plenty of lights. It’s essential to install layered lighting in a windowless room. For example, you can combine overhead fixtures with lamps and accent lights. Placing lights underneath cabinets or inside exposed shelving to brighten dark surfaces is also a great idea.

Finally, pick neutral and minimalistic furniture. For example, a white couch with slim legs will allow you to see more of the floor, making the room feel open and bright.

How to choose an at-home sauna

Saunas offer health benefits beyond just helping you relax. Here’s what to consider if you want one for your home.

Size
Saunas come in various sizes. Do you plan on using it exclusively with your significant other, or do you want to enjoy it with family and friends? Some models fit two or three people, while others have bench seats that accommodate up to 12.

Heat source
Infrared heaters provide instant heat that warms your body from the inside out. However, they typically only reach 120 to 130 F. Alternatively, electric heaters can be used indoors and outdoors but take about 10 to 15 minutes to raise the air temperature. The upside is that they can reach 190 to 185 F. Many electric heaters also come with timers you can cover with water to create soothing steam. Wood-fired heaters have the same benefits as electric ones but can be used only with outdoor saunas.

Indoor or outdoor
Indoor saunas are great if you have a small yard and want to utilize unused space in your basement or bathroom. They add a touch of luxury to your home and are easily accessible in any weather. Additionally, if you choose a free-standing sauna, you can take it with you if you move.

Outdoor saunas are ideal if you have a large yard or want to be close to nature. Moreover, they offer more variety in shape and design than indoor versions. For example, many outdoor models can be fitted with glass windows and exterior seating.

Visit a local sauna retailer to discuss which model is suitable for you.
For the elderly or people with limited mobility, bathrooms are one of the more likely places for a slip-and-fall injury. These falls can result in broken bones and can even be fatal. Consider making your bathroom safer by incorporating some of these features.

- Accessible toilet. An elevated toilet seat can make sitting down much more manageable. Elevated toilet seats are easy to install and sit right on top of your existing one. A comfort-level or right-height toilet that sits slightly higher than a standard toilet is another alternative.

- Shower seat. This specially designed chair makes showering much safer. It has a back support, and the holes in the material allow water to drain. Look for a model with suction cups on the legs for stability.

- No-slip bathmats. These mats provide grip on the shower and tub floors and can help prevent falls. You can also use safety treads, which stick onto the floor for added traction.

Most slip-and-fall accidents occur in the home, so visit your local home improvement store to ensure your loved ones are as safe as possible.

Do you want to transform your bathroom into a relaxing oasis? If so, here are a few easy and inexpensive ways you can convert this room in your house.

- Swap your fixtures and hardware. Add high-end gold fixtures and hardware to your bathroom for a luxurious look. You can also spray-paint your existing pieces for a budget-friendly fix.

- Upgrade your showerhead. Invest in a waterfall showerhead or one with massage capabilities. Not only will it upgrade the look of your bathroom, but it will make your time in the shower more enjoyable.

- Add storage. Sufficient storage can help you declutter and organize your bathroom so that it’s more peaceful. Hang some shelves, mount a towel rack or add some baskets for extra storage.

- Choose calming colors. Paint is an easy way to transform your bathroom. Choose pale neutrals like white, beige or taupe to create a serene environment.

- Install a light dimmer. Dimmer switches allow you to adjust the lighting in your bathroom to create the perfect ambiance.

Don’t forget to incorporate soothing accessories and calming scents. Add plants, candles, artwork and soft towels for a truly spa-like experience.
6 ways to optimize your kitchen storage

Small kitchens can be difficult to use. However, a few design hacks can make a small space more manageable. Consider these layouts and design ideas.

Small kitchen layouts
Your kitchen layout can have a significant impact on efficiency and comfort. Try these styles in your home:

• Galley: A galley kitchen utilizes a middle aisle flanked with cabinets and appliances on one side. Ensure there’s enough room for your kitchen cabinet doors to swing open all the way.

• U-shaped: This horseshoe-shaped layout features cabinets and appliances on three sides. You can place an island in the middle for extra workspace if you have room.

• L-shaped: This layout efficiently utilizes a corner of the room with cabinets and appliances on two sides. It gives you a triangle-shaped workspace with everything you need within easy reach.

Space-saving ideas
Incorporate these space savers into your kitchen design to maximize efficiency.

• Small appliances: Standard-sized appliances can take up a lot of room. Choose a smaller dishwasher, refrigerator and stove to free up space.

• Accessories: Under-cabinet storage containers and slide-out pot organizers can increase the functionality of your kitchen and keep it organized.

5. Swivel trays are easy to install and prevent you from awkwardly twisting and turning to reach rarely used items.
6. Door storage units have many uses, and you can hide them.

Design ideas for small kitchens

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GREEN IDEAS
Are solar-powered homes cost-effective?

Are you concerned about your carbon footprint and considering solar panels to power your property? Are you wondering if this environmentally friendly solution is cost-effective? Here are some things to consider.

Payback period
In recent years, photovoltaic panels have become increasingly affordable. However, depending on how much you spend upfront, it can take 15, 20 or even 30 years of reduced energy bills to make back your initial investment.

Profitability
The profitability of your solar panel setup depends on several factors, including where they're installed and how they're positioned. Solar panels can turn one kilowatt of power into approximately 1,200 kilowatt-hours of electricity in ideal conditions. You can use an online calculator to estimate how long it would take you to get your money's worth.

Additional benefits
On top of saving money over several years, using solar panels helps offset the demand for energy during the winter months. It also ensures you have power even if there's an outage.

If you want to find out if solar panels are right for you, contact an engineer or solar energy supplier in your area.

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6 things to consider for a successful painting project
Do you want to paint (or repaint) a room, staircase or piece of furniture? Here are six things to remember to ensure your painting project is successful.
1. Choose high-quality products. For the best results, invest in high-quality products. For example, spend the extra money on good paint, brushes and rollers.
2. Select the right color and finish. Compare several samples to select a paint color you love. Make sure to choose the right finish for your design.
3. Think about maintenance. Kitchen, bathrooms and entryways are more likely to collect dirt and dust. Therefore, choose a finish that’s easy to clean and can withstand heavy traffic.
4. Consider the surface type. When choosing the right paint for your project, it’s essential to consider the surface type. For instance, concrete, wood and metal require different types of paint and surface preparation.
5. Evaluate your experience level. If you’ve done several painting projects in the past, you may have enough experience to take on the task yourself. If not, call a professional for beautiful, smudge-free results.
6. Buy enough paint. Depending on your project, you may need to apply a primer and account for one, two or even three coats of paint. Ensure you buy the correct amount of paint, especially if it’s a custom blend.

3 tips for reducing renovation costs
If you're planning a renovation project, here are three tips to help keep costs to a minimum.
1. Pick the right time of year. Fall and winter are typically less busy for most contractors. During these times, you may be able to negotiate a lower price.
2. Get several quotes. Contacting several contractors will give you a good idea of the average price to complete the project. Shopping around may also help you get a better rate.
3. Be specific. Clearly explain what you want upfront to avoid unnecessarily driving up the bill.

How to remodel successfully despite supply chain issues
Are you considering renovations but reluctant to risk supply chain delays? A successful remodel isn’t out of the question if you take a proactive strategy. Here are some tips to keep your remodel budget — and patience — under control.
• Phased approach. Divide your project into a series of mini projects. You’ll get a sense of satisfaction from small gains and keep the remodel under control.
• Flexible timeline. Plan your project timeline before you start. First, identify stages that depend on the arrival of crucial materials and supplies. Then, build extra time into those stages to give yourself a buffer.
• Temporary storage. Clear away space on your property or rent a storage unit. This will give you a place to keep materials while you wait for the rest to arrive.
• Contingency budget. Build extra room in your budget for the unexpected. With transport costs in flux, you may suddenly find that materials prices have increased. You may also need to factor in added labor costs.

Talk to a local designer or contractor. They’ll have the inside track on building supply chains and can suggest creative substitutions and workarounds.

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WHAT DOES Community MEAN TO YOU?

Help support your local journalistic resources by doing any of the following:

- Subscribe to the News-Register, either online, in print, or both!
- Buy classified ads, Milestone celebration ads, or “Happy” ads. Advertising is not just for businesses!
- Stock our specialty publications to hand out to Yamhill Valley visitors as a local source of info.
- Read ads in the paper, online or in print. Visit businesses and tell them you saw their ad!