

# 22 Tips to Improve . . . Your Home's Exterior Appearance & Value

You don't have to turn your pockets inside out to spruce up your home's exterior. Many fix-ups cost little more than time and some elbow grease. These fix-ups will make all the difference in the appearance and appeal of every home and the entire neighborhood.

1. Check with your Home Owner's Association (HOA) before making any changes/modifications to the exterior structure & color of your home.
2. Spruce up all around the home; hose and brush off dirt and pollen.
3. Make sure the grade of the land slopes away from the home. Add clay soil if necessary. Ideal slope is 1" drop for every 4' of grade.
4. Clean and adjust gutters and downspouts. Use diverter hoses or splash-blocks to direct rain-water away from the foundation.
5. Check front stoop for soil erosion. Back-fill with clay soil as needed.
6. Secure front entry handrail(s) and repaint an HOA approved color.
7. Make sure all utility entry points are caulked/puttied.
8. Repair soft or rotted wood trim and repaint with HOA approved color.
9. Clean & repair broken windows and shutters.
10. Replace broken exterior lights with an HOA approved fixture(s).
11. Clean roof of damaging moss/mildew and repair/replace any missing or broken shingles.
12. Be sure fence and gate are in good repair.
13. Repaint Front Door (if necessary) with HOA approved color.
14. Consider new, brass door hardware & kick-plate for the front door.
15. Keep lawn and shrubs trimmed, edged and weeded.
16. Keep garden beds edged, weeded and mulched & replace sickly plants.
17. Don't pile mulch against the house and never let it touch wood trim or siding (could attract termites).
18. Put flowering pots on the front stoop and keep them watered and trimmed.
19. Clean outdoor furniture; remove any rust (or discard rusted items).
20. Store or dispose of bicycles, ladders, containers, etc. and other clutter.
21. Fix doorbell, tighten door knobs, and oil squeaky door sliders & hinges.
22. If you have a garage, ideally clear out the garage of everything but cars. If you can't, purge/garage-sale what you can & neatly organize what's left.



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