# Think Outside The House This Summer

- The kitchen needs repainting;
- The bedroom needs new floors; and
- The kids need new furniture . . .

*But it's summer and it's time to think outside the house.*

Walk across the street, turnaround and take a good look at your house. Now you see what everybody else does. Maybe it's tired landscaping or a shabby front door or maybe the siding is faded. Whatever it is it's a great time to tackle some of these improvement for not a lot of money.

## Let's dress up the windows.

Installing shutters on the windows is one of the easiest ways to change the way your house looks. There are many styles to choose from like the carriage house style with decorative hinges to the contemporary panel style. Add an accent color to the shutters such as the popular forest green, colonial cherry or wedgewood blue and this will make your whole house pop. You might want to consider putting lintels' over the window with a keystone decoration in the middle. How about window awnings or an awning over your deck? Nothing looks and feels so cool on a house as awnings.

## Garage Doors

If you're looking for a quick way to boost the curb appeal of your home then a new garage door may be your answer. It's not a lot of money for the area that it improves. Be careful of the lower price doors though. On metal doors they usually have only a thin metal skin between the inside and the outside and that's what makes a door noisy, cold and easy to dent. A rule of thumb is the thicker the better. 2"sandwich doors have a higher R value, a metal backing and may qualify for the 30% Energy Tax Credit. Styles are the standard raised panel, (long or short), popular carriage house and the flat contemporary. Many glass configurations are available to. Most of the popular colors that we sell are in harmony with the rest of the house like the white and earth tones.

## Inviting Entries

If you do one remodeling project this year, start at your front door. The entry is the first impression you make on your guest and what you come home to each day. It changes the outside of your home as well as the inside. A front door can set the decor for the rest of the house just by a stain or painted color, glass configuration or a panel style. A new door can bring in daylight yet provide you privacy with leaded or obscure glass. Change the hardware on your existing door from classic brass to a contemporary brushed silver or cottage black. It's sometimes the simple things that make the difference.

A new door can do more than just dress up your home it can also provide you with additional security by installing security plates, new dead bolt locks and peep sights. If saving energy is important to you than most of the new doors that we install now meet the Energy Tax Credit requirements.

## Windows

Changing all of your windows or just one window can have a tremendous impact on the big three, saving energy, increasing comfort level and raising the curb appeal of your home. One bay or bow style window installed in the front of a house can change the inside as well as the outside. It makes the room look larger and it gives the front of the home more definition to the architecture.

Change all of your windows and you start to save energy right away, lower outside noises, and make those openings maintenance free, (no more painting the trim).

Just remember, whatever home improvement you should decide on, summer time is the perfect time to do it. Think outside the house.

*As reported by Bob Mikealian*

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