



2021 FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT

DECORATE / RENOVATE

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## BRUSH: AS IMPORTANT AS PAINT IN HOME PROJECTS



**USING THE RIGHT BRUSH CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE QUALITY OF A PROJECT'S FINAL LOOK.**

If a person were to walk into a hardware store to the paint aisle, they would probably be overwhelmed. There are many brands and types of paint on the shelves and that's not to mention the brushes and rollers.

Painting is often a task that homeowners dread. However, it is one of the most inexpensive ways to improve the look of your home without too much effort.

Paint colors can dramatically change the mood and can make a statement.

The first thing to consider is the type of paint.

Rick Guyot of Guyot Lumber and Hardware described four types of paint from a flat, all the way to satin and semi-gloss paint, with the most commonly used as eggshell. It provides some gloss, is still easy to clean, does not highlight imperfections, and is not as easily prone to damage as flat paint.

"It's what a high majority of people will use to paint most rooms in their house," he said. "Whether it be for a kitchen or a bathroom, it's one that is more washable than a flat paint and one more people like."

While the type of paint is important and up to the homeowner, something that is overlooked is the quality of the brush and roller.

"The brush does make a difference on how the paint will go on the walls," Guyot said. "For many homeowners they prob-

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ably don't need a professional or commercial brush. However, a high-end residential brush is the best because it holds the paint best and provides a smoother coat when you apply it to the wall. What you don't want is to buy the three pack of brushes or rollers because those aren't the best quality and you get what you pay for."

Cleaning the brush the right way after jobs is important in the life of the brush as well.

"If you clean it correctly and put it in a safe, dry place back in the package, you can get five or six uses out of it, sometimes even closer to 10," Guyot said.

The proper equipment is important, but also the way the operator of the brush applies the paint. A gallon of paint can cover between 350-400 square feet in a home. Having the proper amount of paint on the brush is important.

"You don't want to stretch the paint too fair," Guyot said. "That can leave streaks

or areas of low application and the paint underneath may show through. That is as important as anything. Sometimes it's not the paint or the brush, it's the operator of those things that can determine how a room looks after it is done."

Guyot said that painting is one of the top things that people do during the fall season. "People are looking for something different and that starts inside their house and how it looks," he said. "That starts with paint."

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# HOW TO SET A BUDGET: FOR YOUR RENOVATION

If you want to renovate your home, it's essential that you establish a budget before you get started. This will allow you to determine what you can afford and whether you need to adjust your plan. Here are a few tips to help you allocate sufficient funds for your renovation.

## BE PRECISE ABOUT YOUR PROJECT.

A surefire way to blow your budget is to improvise. If you want a relatively accurate estimate of how much everything will cost, make sure your plan is as detailed as possible. You should also be mindful of how you spend your money in order to maximize the value you'll add to your home.

## ASSESS YOUR FINANCING OPTIONS.

If you plan to upgrade the appliances, windows, doors or insulation in your

home, find out if you qualify for an energy efficiency rebate offered by the government. If you're considering taking out a loan to pay for the renovation, be sure to factor the interest into your budget.

## ESTIMATE THE VARIOUS COSTS.

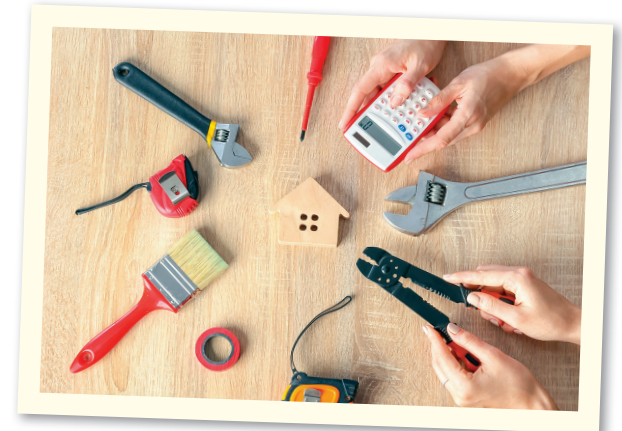
Take time to research and find out the price of the materials you want to use and the professionals you'll need to hire. Keep in mind that the size and age of your home may influence the cost of your renovations. If you want a more accurate figure, consider hiring an estimator.

## PLAN FOR UNFORESEEN EXPENSES.

When it comes to renovating a home, unexpected costs are almost inevitable. Therefore, you should reserve about 15 percent of your budget for contingencies. These funds may be needed to re-

move mold, bring the home up to code or deal with other hidden issues.

Lastly, if you decide to work with a contractor, request a detailed timeline of the project. This way, you can keep track of expenses and spread out your payments.



**ESTABLISHING A BUDGET TO BEGIN RENOVATION PROJECT IS ESSENTIAL.**



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# PANELING: 3 MATERIALS TO USE IN YOUR HOME

If you want to install decorative paneling on a wall or ceiling in your home, here are three materials you can use.

## 1. PVC

Lightweight and easy to install, this wall covering is ideal for humid spaces, such as bathrooms, because it doesn't rot. Plus, it can be manufactured to resemble wood, stone and other materials. Keep in mind, however, that

PVC can warp if exposed to heat.

## 2. MEDIUM-DENSITY FIBERBOARD

Simple to install, MDF panels are available in a variety of sizes and can be used as is or painted to match the space. Additionally, some models are designed to be fire resistant whereas others are made specifically for humid environments.

## 3. SOLID WOOD

This durable, elegant material can add warmth to a space and be painted, stained or varnished to complement the decor. Choose from species like pine, teak and oak, each of which has unique characteristics. Just make sure the panels aren't warped and that any knots in the wood are solid.

For personalized advice on your home renovation project, visit your local retailers.

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# FALL PLANTING: GARDENING ADVICE

With cooler weather arriving in the fall, extra care is needed for plants and vegetation.

Annuals, if they are a plant that can be brought indoors, they need taken out of the ground or, if in a pot, take the entire pot inside before it gets too cold.

"It's a really good idea to usually spray them with some type of bug spray or put systemic granules in the soil so you're not bringing in bugs with it," said Shirley Moonier of Moonier's Florist and Greenhouse.

Perennials most of the time do not need anything done to them, other than perhaps adding a fresh layer of mulch, after the temperature drops cold enough where the plant isn't going to start re-growing more.

"You do not want to trim shrubs or anything because that promotes them to

put on new shoots," she said.

The new growth on plants can be harmful as early winter temperatures approach.

Most of them will need mulched, Moonier said.

Tulips can remain in ground, though in certain cases, other bulbs will need dug up and placed indoors.

"Cannas and elephant ears cannot stay in the ground all winter," Moonier said.

For trees, a granular type of fertilizer can be applied around the drip line of a tree

Rose bushes need mulch, though Moonier said it is helpful to wait until a freeze prior to doing so.

Pansies, in a plant, not seed form, can bloom for much of the fall, Moonier noted.

"That is something you can plant and it



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**RASPBERRIES ARE ONE OF SEVERAL BERRY VARIETIES WHICH CAN BE PLANTED IN THE FALL.**

will bloom through the winter somewhat, and will come on very early.”

Fall is a great time for getting new perennials in the ground, according to Moonier.

Moonier said it's an ideal time to plant trees, shrubs and other perennials including berries.

Mums are an easy option in the fall for quick boost of color, though the modern version of the plants may not make it through the winter months..

“That's going to give you instant color,”

Moonier said. “Mums now most of the time aren't as hardy to have around for the next year.

Cole crops do well as the temperatures cool off in the fall months, Moonier noted.

Several available at Moonier's greenhouse including lettuce, swiss chard, kale and cauliflower.

Garlic and radishes can be planted in the fall as well. Berry options at Moonier's include raspberry and blueberry plants, among others.

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## EXPOSED BEAMS AND PIPES: TIPS TO HIDE OR HIGHLIGHT THEM

Do you have an unfinished basement that you want to make more appealing? Or maybe you have an old house with exposed pipes? In either case, here are a few ideas for how you can cleverly conceal or proudly showcase the beams and pipes in your home.

### BEAMS

To hide your beams, consider installing a dropped ceiling below them. If you want to add more character to the space, however, you can cover them up with draped fabric. Alternatively, you may want to paint the beams so they blend in with the ceiling, or use a contrasting colour to create interest.

Keep in mind that you might be able to use exposed beams to hang various items, such as a swing for your kids, a hammock for naps or string lights to give the room a

warm, welcoming atmosphere.

### PIPES

While ideal for an industrial-style loft, exposed pipes don't necessarily suit every design style. If you have pipes that run near the junction of a wall and ceiling, one option is to hide them behind crown moulding. This can add an air of sophistication to the space. For pipes located elsewhere, you can box them in with dry-wall or plywood painted to match the surrounding surface.

Alternatively, you can paint the pipes themselves, either to add a pop of colour to the room or make their presence less apparent. Depending on where the pipes are located, you may want to use them as rods to hang towels or clothes. Another option is to wrap the pipes with artificial flowering vines or strings of LED fairy lights.

Whether you choose to camouflage or embellish the beams and pipes in your home, you can find everything you need at the stores in your area.



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