

Make the most of your home improvement dollars



Home improvement projects provide homeowners with a chance to put their own stamp on their homes. In addition, many such projects make homes safer and, in some instances, more eco-friendly.

The opportunity to make a home more comfortable, safer and/or more eco-friendly entices many homeowners to open their wallets. In fact, the Home Improvement Research Institute estimates that the home improvement products market will grow by more than 5 percent in 2018.

Homeowners might experience some sticker shock when researching home improvement projects or receiving estimates from contrac-

tors. But there are ways for budget-conscious homeowners to transform their homes and still make the most of their home improvement dollars.

- Do your homework. Each year, Remodeling magazine publishes its “Cost vs. Value Report,” a comprehensive study of 21 popular remodeling projects in 149 United States markets. The report notes the value each project retains at resale in 100 markets across the country. Homeowners who want to get the strongest return on investment can access the “Cost vs. Value Report” (www.remodeling.how.net) to see which home improvement projects are best suited for them.

- Do some of the labor yourself. Homeowners willing to swing a hammer also can stretch their home improvement dollars. For example, the home improvement resource This Old House® notes that homeowners willing to do their own demolition before the contractors arrive can save substantial amounts of money. A professional contractor may charge \$1,000 to demo a 200-square-foot deck, but This Old House estimates that homeowners who demo their own decks may spend only \$450 (for the dumpster rental and parking permit).
- Hire a consultant. The DIY movement is incredibly popular, no doubt thanks

to television channels such as HGTV and the DIY Network. Homeowners with DIY experience may be able to complete projects on their own with little consultation from professional contractors. Some contractors may not offer consulting services, however. The consultation route, which typically requires paying licensed contractors hourly fees to offer guidance, should only be considered by homeowners with legitimate DIY skills, for whom this option can be a great way to save money.

- Schedule renovations during homeowner-friendly times of year. Summer and fall tend to be contractors’ busy seasons, and homeowners will likely pay more for projects during this time of year. If possible, delay starting projects until right after the new year, when contractors aren’t so busy and might be more flexible with pricing.

Budget-conscious homeowners can employ various strategies to make the most of their home improvement dollars without sacrificing quality. FH188231

Fast tape hacks for the handy (or not-so-handy) man



(StatePoint) It’s inevitable... accidents happen. Luckily, there is a secret weapon that can save the day with virtually any fix: duct tape. Why? Because it pairs versatility and intense strength with easy application.

So, when it comes to around-the-house fixes or seasonal projects, you’ll be prepared if you have the right kind of tape in your toolbox. Whether you’re a do-it-yourself pro or a not-so-handy man, here are a few fast fixes that any skill level can handle.

Fix a Bumper - If your bumper takes a blow, a trip to the body shop may be difficult to fit into a busy schedule. But the damaged bumper still needs to be secured in order to ensure the car is safe to drive. As long as the structural integrity of your bumper is intact, choose a strong, all-weather tape to seal minor cracks and gaps. Be sure not to cover tail, brake and signal lights so that they can easily be seen. And just like that, your vehicle is safe to drive until you can visit the body shop.

Fix a Window Screen - If

you find yourself with unwelcome insects in your home, check your window screens for tears. If you do find a hole, there’s a quick and simple fix until you get around to replacing your entire screen. Apply a high-quality clear tape, such as T-Rex Clear Repair Tape, to patch the hole without sacrificing your view. It offers a strong grip and the ability to withstand extreme weather and water.

Fix a Tech Screen - Your phone fumbles through your fingers or an accidental graze knocks your tablet off the counter and in an instant, the screen is shattered. Before you cut yourself on the device’s sharp surface, reach for some clear repair tape. Applying a clear tape to the surface will prevent more pieces from falling off down the line and allow you to continue using your touch screen device. While your phone may not look as sleek as it once did, a strong, clear tape will help you get out of a frustrating – and often pricey – bind.

Fix a Leak - Have you found yourself knee-deep in house-

hold leaks? Not every job warrants calling the plumber; sometimes a roll of tape is all you need. From pipes and hoses to your backyard pool, a waterproof tape like T-Rex Waterproof Tape works wonders. Wrap the tape tightly in order to create a snug seal or create a patch by overlapping strips of tape. Like with any plumbing fix, the best course of action is to turn off the water supply and dry the area before fixing the leak. If that’s not possible, don’t fret – it can be applied to wet surfaces too.

Life is full of mishaps, but a roll of strong tape goes a long way, even if you’re not a skilled handyman.

MARCHELL ELECTRIC

Residential Commercial Farm

OFF PEAK WIRING TRENCHING
NEW CONSTRUCTION REMODELING

Hwy 71 N., Park Rapids, MN 56470

732-8862

Tulip Bulbs

have arrived

www.wadenanorthsidefloral.com

FIVE BUCK FRIDAYS

Cut flowers - cash & carry
Very Special for FRIDAYS!

Perennials \$4.00 each while supplies last

508 N. Jefferson St., Wadena • 218-631-1774 • Major Credit Cards accepted

NORTHSIDE FLORAL, LLC

Caring Hands Home Care, Inc.

Serving the community since 1994!

“Our Hands... Caring For You.”

Serving all or parts of Wadena, Hubbard, Becker, Otter Tail, Todd and Cass counties

1-888-290-5572

MENAHGA CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC.

“A Solid Investment in Your Future”

READY MIXED CONCRETE

- Concrete Blocks • Chimney Blocks
- Washed Crushed Rock & Sand • Crushed Concrete
- Riprap & Boulders • Class 5 - Black Dirt & Fill
- Logix - ICF • Masonry Supplies
- Loading at Pit/State Certified MN Scale

Call Toll-free: 800-450-4432 • 218-564-4432

Highway 71 N • Menahga, MN

30'x40' Pole Shed

FABRAL

Contractor ID # BC 356311

INCLUDES: Price Valid until Oct. 31, 2018

- 10' Side Walls • Fiberglass Ridge Cap • Rafters 4' O.C.
- 2 - 10'x8' Roll-Up Garage Doors • One 3'6" White Service Door
- Roof & Walls Screwed • Colored Roof & Walls

TOTAL COST ERECTED \$14,250

Other sizes available

SEBEKA HOMES, INC.

Sebek, MN 56477 • www.sebekahomesinc.com

218-837-5631 1-800-860-5631

Weber's Wadena Hardware

We can help you with Home Improvement Projects

We carry Valspar paints

We carry ...

Water Softeners and Water Heaters

Stop in and check them out

M-Tu-W, 7 am-5:30 pm; Thurs 7 am-7 pm; Fri 7 am-5:30 pm; Sat 7 am-4 pm

109 Jefferson Street South • Wadena • 631-2454

Tom and Mary Dee Weber, owners
Formerly Zosel's Wadena Hardware

We carry major appliances

- Whirlpool • Amana
- Maytag • Speed Queen

Weber's Wadena Hardware

Do It Best More Than a Hardware Store!