

# 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 contractors. 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 hom-

owners 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 home-

owners 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.



Homeowners might experience some sticker shock when researching home improvement projects or receiving estimates from contractors. But there are ways for budget-conscious homeowners to transform their homes and still make the most of their home improvement dollars.

## SPOTLIGHT TOUR

November 9-10 2018

Arthur Area Tourism  
217-543-2242  
td@arthurillinois.us  
www.arthurillinois.us

## Basement remodeling tips

(Continued from Page 12)

noisy drainage pipes.

Uneven basement flooring will need to be smoothed out and flattened before carpeting or tile can be laid down. A self-leveling underlayment can be applied to fill in gullies, while larger crack and holes will need to be patched.

Once the structure of the basement is addressed, then the design work can begin. Many professionals advise against drop ceilings, which can take away from ceiling height and look cheap. Basements can be dark, so the addition of plenty of lighting can help brighten the room. Small basement windows can be replaced with larger ones to add more light as well.

Homeowners can mimic built-ins and architectural details from elsewhere in the home so the basement is aesthetically cohesive and doesn't seem like an addition. Bookcases and shelving can add valuable storage space as well. Decorate the basement with bright, neutral colors so they make the space feel more inviting.

With some effort and financial investment, basements can be as beautiful and functional as other rooms in a home.

## PRESERVE. PRODUCE. PARTAKE.

CELEBRATE ALL THINGS AUTUMN

Over 400 varieties of pumpkins, squash and gourds. Located on a 200-acre working family farm two miles south and a half mile west of Arthur, Illinois.

Open year-round featuring breads, cinnamon rolls, cookies, angel food cakes and much more! For special orders call 217.543.3700.

Bring in this ad for buy one get one free adult admission!

Open daily from 9am -6pm, Sept 8-Oct 31

the200acres.com

ARTHUR, ILLINOIS

## QUALITY GARAGES SINCE 1973

Financing Available  
Payments as low as \$170 a month

Dave Schrock • 217-234-8913  
coachhousegarages.com

Coach House Garages  
MORE THAN JUST A GARAGE...IT'S A COACH HOUSE

## WILSONS KITCHENS & MORE

Custom Kitchens and Furniture

### OPEN HOUSE

Nov. 9th (9 am - 7 pm) Nov. 10 (9 am - 5 pm)

Large selection of dining room and bedroom groups

Drawing for a free Outdoor Glider

Free coffee & doughnuts as you shop every Saturday

1702 CR 2300 N. - Arthur, IL 61911  
217-543-2408  
wilsonskitchens@ibifax.com

## Anything Goes! by ShawMark

If carpet could talk, Anything Goes!® would say, “Bring it on.”

And that's just what Shaw has done. For 35 years, Anything Goes!® by ShawMark® carpets have been subjected to “torture tests” at sites like Grand Central Station and Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. Treatment that would destroy other carpets has consistently done nothing much to Anything Goes!

Backed by the industry's strongest warranty against matting and crushing, these carpets are unmatched in performance and customer satisfaction—think millions of happy customers over three-plus decades. But what about style? One word: beautiful. Anything Goes! carpets are designed in a wide array of colors, patterns, and textures.

If you have a bring-it-on kind of lifestyle, you simply can't do better than Anything Goes!

Shaw FLOORS

2 1/2 miles west of Arcola. Turn left onto Country Club Rd., turn left at 4-way stop sign.

Countryside Flooring  
Nelson Chupp  
551 E. CR 300 N.  
Arcola, Illinois  
Ph. (217) 268-3669

Sale now through Dec. 10, 2018

5 1/2 miles east of Arthur. Turn right onto Country Club Rd., turn left at 4-way stop sign.