

THE HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE

Transform what you have into what you want with home improvement help from the experts. From windows that wow, to laid-out landscaping, these regional pros point out what you'll need this spring to create your very own remarkable redo. Here's your green light to spring's fresh new start.

By Reese Randall



roofing & siding

Peak Performance

It's the part of the house you think no one can see, but it's a visible attribute that could matter most. From keeping the weather conditions at bay to acting as a focal point, raise the roof on a look that adds character and functionality to the entire home. There are options that include a shed roof (single slope), gable roof (two slopes that meet at a peak down the middle), a dormer (a small gable roof) and an extension if you're looking to extend your existing roofline, such as a porch roof.

"By adding a porch roof you not only increase the property value of your home but also enhance the curb appeal of it," says Michael Inks, owner of Inks Installations. "The additions we create provide a more overall comfortable living space by expanding the area in which you live."

He adds that it is more cost effective than relocating.

Continued on page 33 >



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"Roofing and siding serve both design and function," says Craig Gouker, manager of Craig Gouker Roofing and Siding. "There are new options available now that can really modernize the look of a home." The variety of colors and styles allows



homeowners to achieve a look tailor-made to them. "Not only does updating the look of an old home greatly improve its curb appeal for future buyers, the roof and siding are the protection of the home. If they are not functioning properly, the structure and interior improvements risk damage from water and other harmful conditions," explains Gouker. "The investment in the roof and siding is money well spent."

"Preventive maintenance is critical when it comes to your roof," says TJ Willetts, director of marketing at Burns & Scalo Roofing. "It's protecting your assets on the inside." He adds that the most important item of business for homeowners to remember, when it comes time to making improvements to their roof, is to be consistent with its care and upkeep.

Consumers are always seeking ways to spend their roofing budget wisely, to protect their home while increasing its value; aesthetics is an important part of the equation. Currently, a trend in design is premium shingles. There is a large color palette with diverse selections compared to basic shingle grades, and they have a longer expected lifespan. "They're a beautiful option for shingle types and really offer homeowners a visual opportunity to advance the look of their home," says Willetts. "Designer shingles or luxury shingles are a nominal [cost] increase over traditional shingles, but it opens up a world of options—which is worth it."