



Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

Improve Indoor Air Quality in Your Home

Indoor air quality is essential for a healthy home environment. Poor air quality can lead to allergies, respiratory issues and other health problems. Here are a few ways homeowners can improve the air inside their homes.

1 Ventilate your space: Open windows and doors whenever possible to allow fresh air to circulate and remove indoor pollutants. In colder months, use exhaust fans in kitchens and bathrooms to maintain airflow and reduce moisture buildup.

2 Change HVAC filters: Heating and cooling systems can trap dust, pollen and other airborne particles. Replacing HVAC filters regularly—about every 1–3 months—ensures your system is circulating clean air.

3 Add houseplants: Certain houseplants, such as spider and snake plants, naturally filter air by removing toxins like formaldehyde, benzene and carbon monoxide.

4 Use an air purifier: Air purifiers with HEPA filters can help remove allergens, dust, pet dander and other contaminants from the air, especially in homes with allergy sufferers.

5 Reduce chemical pollutants: Avoid using harsh cleaning products, aerosol sprays and air fresheners that release volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Opt for natural, non-toxic cleaners to keep the air healthier.

How to Remove Wallpaper

Removing wallpaper may seem like a daunting task, but with the right tools and techniques, you can have smooth, clean walls ready for fresh paint or new wallpaper. Here's a step-by-step guide to make the process easier.

Start by preparing the area. Remove furniture, cover the floor with drop cloths and use painter's tape to protect. Test a small wallpaper section to see if it peels away easily. If it does, you may be able to remove the wallpaper without much effort. For stubborn wallpaper, more effort may be necessary.

Use a wallpaper scoring tool to lightly perforate the surface, allowing moisture to penetrate and loosen the adhesive.

Mix a wallpaper removal solution using warm water and a few drops of dish soap or a commercial wallpaper remover.

Spray or sponge the solution onto the wallpaper, ensuring it soaks through the paper but doesn't oversaturate the walls.

After letting the solution sit for 10–15 minutes, gently scrape off the wallpaper using a plastic scraper or putty knife, starting from the bottom and working upward. Be careful not to damage the wall underneath.

Once the wallpaper is removed, wipe down the walls to remove any leftover adhesive. Allow the walls to dry completely before painting or redecorating.



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Driveway Material Options

The driveway plays a significant role when enhancing your home's curb appeal. Homeowners have several options when considering which materials to use, each offering its own set of benefits. Here's a look at the five most popular types of driveway materials.



Concrete: Concrete driveways are durable, low-maintenance and long-lasting. They can withstand heavy loads and harsh weather conditions, making them a popular choice for many homeowners.



Gravel: Gravel is a budget-friendly option that allows for excellent drainage, making it ideal for areas with heavy rainfall. While gravel driveways are easy to install, they require frequent maintenance to prevent ruts and keep the gravel in place.



Pavers: Paver driveways offer a high-end look with many design possibilities. Made from materials like brick or stone, they are durable and can be easily repaired by replacing individual pieces. However, pavers tend to be more expensive and labor-intensive to install.



Crushed stone: Crushed stone driveways are similar to gravel but have a more uniform look. They offer excellent drainage and flexibility in design, though they can become uneven over time without regular upkeep.

Asphalt: Asphalt driveways are another durable option, typically more affordable than concrete. They offer a smooth surface and perform well in cold climates. However, asphalt requires periodic sealing to maintain its appearance and prevent cracking.



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