



Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

How to Mulch Your Yard Properly

Mulching is an effective way to maintain a healthy and attractive yard by improving soil quality, retaining moisture and reducing weeds. Proper mulching enhances plant growth and minimizes maintenance efforts.

Benefits of Mulching:

- ▶ **Moisture Retention:** Mulch reduces evaporation, keeping the soil hydrated.
- ▶ **Weed Control:** A thick layer blocks sunlight, preventing weed growth.
- ▶ **Soil Protection:** Mulch insulates soil, regulating temperature in all seasons.
- ▶ **Erosion Prevention:** It minimizes soil displacement caused by wind and rain.

Steps to Mulch Your Yard:

- 1 Choose the Right Mulch:**
 - ▶ Organic mulches like bark, straw and compost enrich the soil.
 - ▶ Inorganic mulches such as rubber and stone are long-lasting and low maintenance.
- 2 Prepare the Area:**
 - ▶ Remove weeds and debris before application.
 - ▶ Consider landscape fabric for extra weed control.
- 3 Apply Mulch Properly:**
 - ▶ Spread evenly, maintaining a depth of 2-4 inches.
 - ▶ Keep mulch 1 inch away from plant stems to prevent rot.
- 4 Maintain Mulch:**
 - ▶ Refresh mulch yearly to retain effectiveness.
 - ▶ Occasionally turn the mulch to prevent compaction.



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5 Home Improvement Projects to Tackle This Spring

Spring is the perfect time to rejuvenate your home with projects that enhance its beauty and functionality. Here are five impactful improvements to consider:

- 1. Refresh Exterior Paint:** A new coat of paint revitalizes your home's appearance and protects it from the elements. Focus on areas like the front door, shutters and trim to boost curb appeal.
- 2. Upgrade Landscaping:** Enhance your yard with new plants, mulch or a garden bed. Incorporating native species can reduce maintenance and support local ecosystems.
- 3. Install Energy-Efficient Windows:** Replacing old windows with energy-efficient models improves insulation, reduces energy bills and increases indoor comfort.
- 4. Update Lighting Fixtures:** Modernize your interior by replacing outdated lighting with contemporary fixtures. Consider energy-saving LED options for efficiency and longevity.
- 5. Power Wash Surfaces:** Clean accumulated winter grime from driveways, decks and siding using a power washer. This not only enhances appearance but also extends the life of these surfaces.

By undertaking these projects, you can enhance your home's appeal and functionality, making it a more enjoyable place to live.



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How to Create a Custom Headboard for Your Bed

A custom upholstered headboard adds style and comfort to your bedroom while allowing for personalization. With the right materials and steps, you can create a stunning focal point for your space.

Benefits of a DIY Headboard:

- Customization: Choose your own fabric, shape and design.
- Cost Savings: DIY options are often more affordable than store-bought versions.
- Added Comfort: A padded headboard provides a cozy backrest.

Steps to Build Your Headboard:

Gather Materials:

- Plywood (cut to size)
- Upholstery foam and batting
- Upholstery fabric
- Spray adhesive, staple gun and heavy-duty staples
- Mounting hardware (D-ring hangers or wall cleats)

Prepare the Board:

- Cut plywood to match your desired headboard shape.
- Attach upholstery foam using spray adhesive.

Cover with Batting and Fabric:

- Wrap batting over the foam and staple it securely to the back.
- Stretch fabric over the batting, ensuring a smooth fit and staple it tightly.

Mount the Headboard:

- Attach D-rings or French cleats for secure wall mounting.

Tips for a Professional Finish:

- Use durable fabric for longevity.
- Consider tufting or nailhead trim for added elegance.
- Match colors and textures with your bedroom decor.

With these simple steps, you can create a custom headboard that enhances your bedroom's style and comfort.



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