

Your organized home

# Increase your home's value with easy tweaks

Worried about money? Aren't we all! That's why we asked the pros for simple ways to make your home worth even more

## Signal kindness with a patriotic flag

When HGTV star Nicole Curtis designs an exterior, there's one thing she never forgets: our flag flying proud. "It signals this is a home with heart." In fact, houses with the flag are perceived as more welcoming. Flags should ideally be on the left side of your entry, but if you can't, "just keep the porch light on when the flag is flying."



## Make your siding 'shine' with star art

Our exterior walls are big blank canvases screaming for a bit of life, says exterior expert Melissa James (QualityBuiltExteriors.com).

To create instant curb appeal, consider adding one or two pieces of art, like an oversize star or sunburst. Worried about damaging your siding? "There are special siding hangers you can use without having to drill."



## Upgrade your garage with stylish magnets

An updated garage door boosts your home's value by as much as 4%. Just pick up a carriage hardware set (\$8-\$30, Amazon.com), suggests James. "I used a screw-in version and love it, but for something less permanent, try magnetic sets available at home-improvement stores."



## Beautify your windows with pretty plantings

Few accents are as cheery as window boxes. If you're short on blooms, just fill them with potted plants. Used by Joanna Gaines on HGTV's *Fixer Upper*, this shortcut looks best when you stick to one type of plant, like begonias or geraniums. "And don't be afraid to go faux," says Kristie Barnett, author of *Psychological Staging*. "You can order faux plants designed for the outdoors, like baby boxwoods." Tip: Installing a window box? Says James, "Placing them a bit lower balances facades of older homes with too-short windows."



## Increase value by \$6,000 with a daring front door

Paint your front door a bold red or turquoise, and Zillow reports your home could sell for \$6,271 more! "I chose a pear yellow that tied into the landscaping," says James. "Now, the first thing people say when they come over is, 'Oh I love your door!'" Prefer a smaller splash of color? Go bright with a mailbox or porch swing.