

# THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR



After



Before

photos courtesy of Steve Gray Renovations, Indianapolis

Simple renovations or major overhauls add to the value of your home

## spruce up your home's exterior

Every homeowner can think of at least one home improvement project he or she would like to get accomplished this summer. Some projects are obvious. Peeling paint and structural fatigue cry out for attention while things like clogged gutters may go unnoticed, especially in this year's early summer dry spell. But before heading to the beach or golf course, maybe it really is time to repair that leaky roof, install new windows or give the house a fresh coat of paint.

The good news is that even simple renovation projects provide important benefits for homeowner. In addition to boosting curb appeal, home improvement projects protect the investment you have in your home.

Furthermore, specific projects like installing replacement windows and new siding can offer the opportunity to realize greater energy efficiency in an existing home. New windows and siding with improved moisture barriers also reduce the chance for mold or mildew to creep in.

Homeowners looking to sell their home in the current housing market may consider replacement



photo courtesy of Rhino Shield, Fishers

windows and siding to make the home more appealing and increase the chance for a quicker offer.

Or, say you love your present home and just want to take good care of it. Some things homeowners can do annually to keep their homes in tiptop shape include inspecting roof, valleys and gutters. Look for proper water drainage and remove debris. Inspect exterior doors. Adjust weather stripping as needed; inspect and lubricate door hardware and lock sets. Inspect and repair exterior caulking at windows, doors and siding. Also, inspect and lubricate garage door tracks.

Close inspection of exterior paint may lead to the discovery that it is time to repaint. Your response may be to paint your home in the same color, giving it a fresh face lift. Or you may wish to go all out. Have you ever observed a home that was totally transformed by just changing colors on its exterior? A home that needs repainting offers the perfect opportunity to perform a makeover on your home's appearance.

Why not explore a little? Tour neighborhoods and note which colors catch your eye, paying particular attention to homes that are similar

to yours in style. Virtual painting computer programs allow you to preview color combinations on your house before spending a lot of money on paint only to discover you cannot live with the color you've impulsively chosen.

Other elements, like roof color and landscaping should feature into color selection. Respect the integrity of the architecture. If you have a colonial, prairie or other distinctive style of house, research original color applications for homes of its kind.

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An option that is gaining in popularity is utilizing Rhino Shield, a ceramic coating that is not paint and is able to resist fading caused by the sun. The coating reflects over 90 percent of the sun's energy, giving it a 25-year fade rate virtually undetectable to the human eye.

Another great way to spend home improvement dollars is on replacement windows that will pay for themselves in lower energy costs

with all-weather insulation performance and freedom from maintenance.

Imagining how much more attractive your home will look with beautiful improvement projects can be the motivation you need to help you get started.

Indianapolis House & Home is pleased to furnish information about local professionals who will be happy to help you with all of your home improvement needs. ■



photo courtesy of Northgate True Value, Anderson

## RESOURCES:

1HourDoor  
11631 Fox Rd.  
Indianapolis  
317.826.4527

Exterior Wood Creations  
2133 E. 226th St.  
Cicero  
317.758.5942  
800.203.5143  
www.extwoodrest.com

Kirkenlow  
4231 W. 96th St.  
Indianapolis  
317.769.5691  
www.kirkenlowremodeling.com

L.O.C.O. of Indiana  
72 W. Brookville Rd.  
Fountaintown  
317.755.8292

Mathew's True Value  
1810 Fairfield Ln.  
Pendleton  
765.778.2411

Mr. Roof  
800.4.MR.ROOF  
www.mrroof.com

Northgate True Value  
2400 Broadway  
Anderson  
765.642.2400

Rhino Shield  
9860 North by Northeast Blvd.  
Fishers  
888.744.6641  
www.rhinoshield.net

Simplicity Siding & Windows  
600 E. Main St.  
Greenwood  
317.859.8665

Steve Gray Renovations  
Indianapolis  
317.596.0928

Suburban Glass  
Crossroads Dr. @ US 31  
Greenwood  
317.535.5747

Window World Inc.  
1229 Country Club Rd.  
Indianapolis  
317.209.0008  
www.windowworldinc.com