

GIVE YOUR HOUSE MORE "CURB APPEAL"

Want to improve the look of your home without breaking the bank? Ahmed Hassan, host of "Yard Crashers" on the DIY Network, visited *The Early Show* on Monday, May 4, 2009 with tips on adding "curb appeal" to the front of your house:

Why care now?:

- The weather is finally warming up, which means people are spending more time outside, and paying more attention to their home's appearance.
- Many homeowners don't have the money for major renovations right now, but still want to update their façade -- and increase their home's value.
- This is the traditional time to sell, and homeowners want to make a good impression on potential buyers.

(Editor's note: DETAILS ON THE PRODUCTS SEEN DURING THE SHOW, AND SOME OTHERS, ARE BENEATH HASSAN'S GUIDANCE BELOW)

LIGHTING

Lights on a home are like jewelry: the right accessory can make all the difference in the overall look of your home. Updating an outdated light fixture is relatively inexpensive and easy to do and the options are endless.

Keep in mind that new must blend seamlessly with the old so consider the style or type of your home when choosing a new fixture.

Even more important than the style and finish of your new outdoor lighting fixtures is choosing the proper SIZE. The biggest mistake consumers make when installing new outdoor lighting is purchasing fixtures that are too small!

When choosing lighting for a door or entryway, a simple rule-of-thumb is that the height/size of your outdoor fixture should be based on the height of the door or opening.

If a single side lantern is used, the piece should be approximately one third the height of the door.

If two lights are used on either side of a door, the pieces used can be slightly smaller, say one quarter the height of the entryway.

The lights on the set during the show ranged from \$100 to \$230.

DOOR ACCESSORIES

The front door is the first and last part of your home that visitors or potential buyers encounter. For this reason, it should reinforce the positive impression made by your property. If you have worn or flimsy hardware, fix or upgrade it.

Any glass in the door should sparkle, and so should the hardware.

A reproduction cut-glass, brass, hardwood, or porcelain knob placed on an otherwise conventional hollow-core door can increase the perception of value. The lock and handle should have the look and feeling of quality and provide reassurance about the property.

Placing an attractive brass peephole in the door for screening visitors is a good idea, but don't buy the small, inexpensive kind since it will cheapen the look of the door.

WINDOWS

You can spruce up the windows on the front of your house by adding window boxes. Flowers can be changed out seasonally to add an ever-changing personality to the front of your home.

When adding a window box, make sure that it extends the full length of your window. If it's too small it will look like a funny moustache and will detract from the aesthetics. Ahmed suggests adding copper window boxes which look quite high-end. The window boxes on the show were about \$400 a pop, but you can find them for less.

Window boxes won't add any appeal to your home if the flowers inside are dead! For \$59 you can

buy a self watering reservoir. This contraption sits inside your window box, under the dirt. The reservoirs hold enough water to maintain your plants for two weeks.

FRONT STOOP

Every front porch looks more inviting with some pots of flowers or plants. Ahmed suggests clustering pots of the same material in different sizes together. The plants in the pots should mirror the plants in your window boxes. In general, clustering and repeating plants makes a bold statement.

WALKWAY/DRIVEWAY/PATIO

For many homes, a driveway can take up a lot of front yard real estate; and if it's faded or worn it can downgrade a home's value.

ASPHALT

Replacing an asphalt driveway is expensive. The company Driveway Impressions offers a cheaper alternative which covers up your worn drive and replaces it with an asphalt product that replicates the appearance of hand-laid brick, cobblestone or slate. While this is more expensive than simply replacing with basic asphalt, it's much cheaper than high-end brick or stones. The material is also more durable than these high-end options, and is less likely to crack in cold climates. Expect to spend about \$5 a square foot on this product, compared to \$10 a square foot for hand-laid pavers.

CONCRETE

If you prefer a concrete option, or want to spruce up your current concrete, this next option may be for you. Called spray deck or texture-crete, essentially water is mixed with a grout-like product and sprayed onto your patio/walkway/etc, providing a new thin coating over the old concrete . The grout adds texture; you can choose from a variety of colors. If you want to up the ante a bit more, you can incorporate a design by applying a second layer. The cost here is \$3 to \$7 a sq. ft, depending on if you add a second layer, versus \$8 to remove and replace with plain gray concrete.

PRODUCTS

Lighting Options from LampsPlus Shown:

Bellagio- Bronze 20 1/2" \$99.99

Casa Marseille 21 1/2" \$149.00

Jardin Du Jour Craftsman 11" \$99.99

Slate Stone 16" \$154.99

Tiffany Style 16"- 49619 \$229.99

Website: [www. LampsPlus.com](http://www.LampsPlus.com)

Door Accessory Options from the Hardware Hut

Deltana Traditional Door Bell \$16.64

Oil bronzed finish

Deltana 4" House numbers \$8.76 each

Oil bronzed finish

Ives Door Knocker- Artisan Series \$51.11

Oil bronzed finish

Oval Ribbon Door Knob set \$266.40

Website : www.thehardwarehut.com

1-800-708-6649

Hooks and Lattice Window Boxes

36" Amore Coat Bronze Window Box- \$399.95

website: www.hooksandlattice.com

Planter Well Self Watering Reservoir from Hooks and Lattice

Cost for the 24" Planter Well Self Watering Reservoir- \$58.85

Website: www.hooksandlattice.com

Asphalt Overlays from Driveway Impressions

Cost per square foot: \$5.00

Website:

www.drivewayimpressions.com

Concrete Spray-Deck and Texture-Crete from Increte

Spray-Deck Cost per square foot: \$3-4.00

Texture-crete cost per square foot: \$5-7.00

Website:

www.increte.com