These 8 small home improvement projects offer big returns on investment

Update your home strategically to get strong returns when you sell, while also giving a boost to your living space.

1. Replace kitchen fixtures
   Upgrading appliances, changing out cabinet hardware, replacing the sink, or adding an upscale backsplash can all be effective.

2. Clean carpets
   Old, dirty or matted carpet can be detrimental to a home sale.

3. Maximize garage storage space
   Ample garage storage is an important feature for potential buyers.

4. Inspect plumbing and electrical systems
   Hire a plumber and an electrician to check existing systems and handle any minor repairs—a pre-market inspection can save you money in the long run.

5. Increase curb appeal
   Consider laying sod to reinvigorate the front lawn, trimming overgrown hedges, cleaning the driveway, clearing pathways and installing exterior lighting.

6. Upgrade the front door
   The National Association of the Remodeling Industry reports that installing a new front door improves a house’s energy efficiency and livability.

7. Paint interior rooms
   Repainting walls and ceilings could cost as little as $25, but still bring in a solid ROI.

8. Make over the bathroom
   Minor upgrades could include re-caulking around the tub, replacing the sink or updating the fixtures so they match.

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