Instant Curb Appeal For Under \$100

Enhancing your front yard doesn't have to cost a fortune.

There are dozens of small, inexpensive home improvements that you can do to your house to add instant curb appeal. Adding curb appeal to your house not only makes it easier to sell, but it also gives your house that nice and finished look in which you can take pride in. When deciding on how to add instant curb appeal to your house, make sure your consider what your house currently looks like and what will look best with it. Also, consider how much time you have to put into your home improvement project and what your budget is.

Here are a few DIY home improvement projects that all cost under \$100 and will add instant curb appeal to your house.



Paint Your Front Door, Trim, or Shutters on Your House

Most exterior paint will cost you approximately \$25 a gallon. To paint your trim, shutters, or front door it on your house, it should not take you more than \$100, unless you have a very big house. Painting your home can definitely add some brightness and revive your house while adding curb appeal. Pick a bold color that makes your house stick out, but just make sure that you match it to the rest of the colors on your house. This home improvement project may take several hours depending on how much you choose to paint, so plan for at least a day of painting.



Upgrade Your Mailbox

It doesn't matter if you have a regular mailbox by the road or if you have a box mounted to your house for mail, adding a new and upgraded mailbox can make your home feel upgraded, which adds curb appeal to it. You can find a new mailbox for your house from anywhere from \$10-\$100. When you install your mailbox, make sure that you are following the regulations that are set forth in the city that you live in. If you have a simple mailbox mounted on your house, this home improvement project should take less than an hour to complete. If you have a full-size mailbox at the road, plan for at least 2 hours or so to complete the home improvement project



Install New House Numbers

If your house has old or faded house numbers on it, purchase some new numbers to spruce up the curb appeal of your house. Look for modern house numbers that are made from stainless steel, brass or aluminum. Try to match your new house numbers with the finish that is on your exterior light fixtures to add the best curb appeal. Simple house numbers can start at \$2.00 for a number or you can look into customized plaques that can cost \$50-\$100.



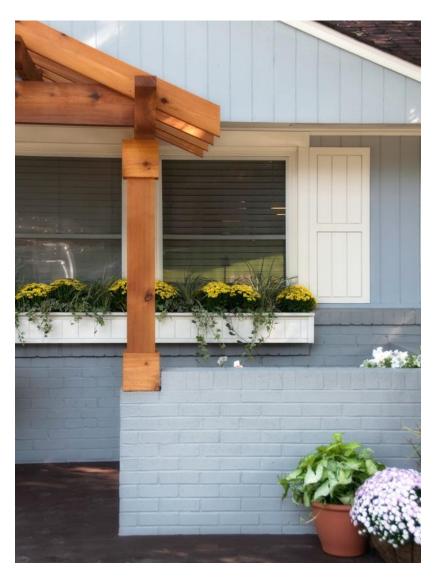
Plant a Tree

Planting a tree is one of the most common ways to add curb appeal to your house. It is a simple home improvement project that can really liven up your house. Before you plant a tree in your yard, make sure you consider how big the tree will get and how it will affect your house. If you have enough space, try planting two trees to frame your house or your entryway into your house. You can find trees to add curb appeal to your house starting at \$25. Planting a tree does not take very long and is a short home improvement project.



Replace Exterior Light Fixtures

When buying new exterior light fixtures to add curb appeal to your house, be sure to consider both the style of the light fixtures and the function of them. You want your light fixtures to be able to adequately light up your entryway to your house and make it safer. Also, look for light fixtures that have the same mounting system as the current ones that you have to save yourself some time on this home improvement project. Exterior light fixtures can be found anywhere from \$20 and up.



Install Flower Boxes

If your house is lacking curb appeal and color, then try adding some flower boxes to your house. Install the flower boxes in the windows of your house or on the front porch railings. Flower boxes are relatively cheap and will only cost approximately \$25. The thing that you have to remember with this home improvement project is that you will also have to pay for the flowers and soil for inside the flower boxes and you will also have to maintain the up-keep of the flowers to actually add curb appeal. If you rather not add flower boxes to your house, then consider buying some container gardens in pots and placing them on your front steps or porch.

http://www.diynetwork.com/outdoors/instant-curb-appeal-for-under-100/index.html

Easy Curb Appeal for Under \$100



By Christina Schmohl, GalTime Associate Producer



Looking to sell your home or just wow your neighbors? Here are some great, easy-to-do tips to add curb appeal to your home. All of these cost less than 100 dollars and will dramatically improve the exterior of your home!

Beautify the Front...

Whitehurst, author of Amazon's best-seller, Magical Housekeeping: Simple Charms and Practical Tips for Creating a Harmonious Home, recommends cleaning the front door, adding a fresh coat of paint, and making sure it is in the most presentable condition. To save money, Marcia Turner, Co-author of The Complete Idiot's Guide to Staging Your Home to Sell, explains that coupons are available for two free pints of paint, which is enough to cover the entire surface of the door. Shanna Bender, owner and design principal of Design Studio 15 recommends adding tall planters on either side of the front door to draw attention to the home's central focal point, each of which costs about \$30. Although Tess also suggests adding plants and flowers to the front of the home, she advises to keep the plants far enough away from the door so that it is entirely visible.

In addition to the door, multiple designers suggest playing up the porch. For instance, Turner recommends adding an inexpensive set of chairs and a little table. Turner explains that at places like Goodwill and Salvation Army, you can find great pieces for under \$50. Allyona Sevanesian, Realtor at the Beverly Hills firm InSite Properties also explains how important it is to create an inviting porch. She emphasizes the importance of accessorizing, and therefore says to throw down a rug (possibly one you

already have) and add colorful flowers. According to Sevanesian, "A dressed up porch creates visions of sitting out front with a morning coffee and a paper or a hot chocolate in the evening while watching the stars." Whitehurst also believes in the power of accessorizing, and believes that incorporating chimes, flags or whirlgigs can add extra charm to your home's exterior.

Spruce up the Greenery...

For only about \$10, Bender says you can add flowers around the mailbox. Turner suggests planting annuals along the walkway, too, and highlights the importance of mowing your lawn and trimming surrounding hedges and trees.

Repair/Replace...

In addition to repairing the door, Turner says it is essential to replace worn numbers on the mailbox and on the home's front. According to Beverly Hills realtor David Kean, "The removal of bars, out-dated metal awnings and carports, rotted wood shutters, and metal mesh security doors can drastically improve curb appeal for a minimal amount of effort and money."

Clean it up...

Sevanesian recommends washing your windows and cleaning out gutters. If viewers see the home's outside as a mess, she believes they will automatically assume the same of the inside.

Amp up the Lighting...

Last, but not least, replacing old lighting or adding dramatic lighting can improve the appearance of your home. Turner suggests adding "up lights" in front of your home to highlight its front. Turner also recommends adding solar powered lighting along the walkway to create a romantic, welcoming appeal. Turner found a set for under \$20 here at Home Depot.

Read more: http://galtime.com/article/living/43532/16157/easy-curb-appeal-under-100#ixzz2OITF51cL