

7 EASY AND AFFORDABLE HOME UPDATES

1. Update your lighting:

- Remove and replace any track lighting with flush mounts or pendants. Re-visit your sconces. Check out new, ultra-thin and easy to install wafer lights to replace your ceiling lamps or recessed lighting. So thin that they disappear into the ceiling.
- Replace all bulbs with LEDs and replace any fluorescent fixtures. Fluorescent light is very unflattering, meanwhile LEDs are more energy efficient and last longer than both fluorescent and incandescent lighting.
- Install undercabinet lighting in the kitchen.

2. Bathroom refresh:

- New faucets in your bathrooms and kitchen go a long way to make a space look clean and updated, and there are all kinds of styles, finishes and price points to choose from.
- New shower heads can not only update your look, but also make your bath feel more like a spa.
- New vanities - Ikea and Home Depot have inexpensive options with basin sinks (as opposed to the undermount 90's style) that can drag your bathroom into this century.
- If you can spring for a glass enclosure for your tub or shower, go for it. If you have an old plastic one and don't want to spend the money, take it out and put up a nice shower curtain instead.
- Re-grouting and caulking will make everything look fresh and new.

3. Door frames and hardware, baseboards and molding:

- Replace or cover ornate door frames with simple block moldings.
- If you have hinges that have been painted over, replace them (with a finish that matches your doorknobs). Consider new doorknobs.
- Simple baseboards and crown moldings are more contemporary, or just nix the crown molding altogether.

4. Electrical outlets and switch covers:

Old outlet and switch covers turn yellow and crack. New ones look cleaner, and more contemporary. And while you're at it, consider dimmers and smart switches – more lighting options and easy to install.

5. AC Vents:

Hate AC grills? There are linear vents of all sizes that look much more modern (and are so much easier to clean!). And if you can't get the EXACT size you need, it's cheap to build out the edges in drywall to get to the right fit.

6. Window Treatments:

Update and upgrade. There are inexpensive options that you can DIY, or you can go all out with customs and pay more.

7. And finally, paint and wallpaper!

Always a surefire way to brighten a space. Don't just think of paint for your walls – think of cabinets and furniture too!