D·I·Y PROJECTS

Do-It-Yourself (DIY) projects have become much easier and ever more popular for the average person. New developments in paints, papers, glues, seals, power tools, and other tools and supplies have made good results possible with less time and previous experience needed. There are articles reporting that some 70% of people now prefer DIY projects as to hiring contractors to update the look of their home.

User-friendly, step-by-step directions are available for laying floors and tile, installing shelves and paneling, making curtains and blinds, and even upcycling old furniture or other household items. *Upcycling simply means taking an object and updating or reusing the product to create something of a higher quality or value.* Upcycled items may be used for the same purpose as originally intended, just with a new, fresh look, or they may be turned into something entirely different. For example, an old entertainment center may be transformed into an organization station for toys or books.

A redecorating project doesn't have to set off flurries of anxiety. The secret to success is to not aim too high on beginning projects. Learn to do simple, low cost projects first. After you build your skills and confidence, move on to bigger projects. Major remodeling efforts, such as putting up or taking down walls, rewiring electrical systems, or adding a room, require at least the advice and counsel of a professional as well as more skills with tools and housing structures. Many decorating update projects, however, require only a commitment, a carefully laid plan, and some shopping around for supplies.

Function and comfort are key factors to any project. Consider the way you live. Learn your likes and dislikes in home design. Look at ideas that might work for you whether they are current trends or practical DIY investments. There are a ton of resources available to gather ideas, magazines and books for starters, and then there is the internet with endless possibilities. On the internet you may utilize social media outlets such as Facebook pages and/or groups, you may find inspiration from Pinterest, or even a crafting/DIY blog. There are so many options and something to fit everyone's unique taste!

For every DIY project there is a trade-off with time vs. money. Studies have shown that a project that takes a professional contractor 40 hours to do will take an expert amateur 48 hours, *someone handy with some experience 60 hours, and a beginner 80 hours. Learning to do skills well pays off in real $$$ savings!*

When starting a DIY project, you must first consider your own hourly wage for working on a project, then figure out how long it will take to complete the project. Compare this cost with the cost of buying new or having the project done by someone else.

Other questions to consider are:

- **Do I have that much time?**
- **Will I like doing it or learn anything from it?**
- **Do I have the skills to complete the project?**
- **Do I have someplace to go for advice if I get stuck in the middle of the project?**
- **Do I have the tools or can I borrow them?**
- **Do I know what materials are needed?**
- **Can I buy them locally? At a reasonable cost?**

Plan carefully. Never rush into a DIY project. The unexpected, unforeseen, and unusual can and probably will happen.

GET INSPIRED

before after

Update old furniture by using a fresh coat of chalk style paint and adding new hardware. Swap out the old mirror for a newer one. Now you have a whole new look without spending big bucks!

Before

After

Turn an old drawer into a table and use as a plant stand on your patio or as a coffee table in your living area!

BEFORE

AFTER

Paint old picture frames and attach some chicken wire to the back for a cute way to display cards, notes, or pictures. Don't have chicken wire? Use rope, twine, or try cork!

Repurposed pickle (and other various) jars! Paint the lids and add some flair! Use them to organize your counter tops and table tops in your kitchen, bathroom, or office!

http://www.u-createcrafts.com/how-to-use-chalk-paint-dresser-makeover/

http://itswrittenonthewalls.blogspot.com/2013/01/more-tips-and-tricks-personalized-mugs.html

http://www.thebudgetdecorator.com/projects-with-picture-frames/

http://www.recyclart.org/2014/11/repurpose-2-drawers-make-vintage-side-table/

http://homestead-and-survival.com/23-ways-to-upcycle-old-pickle-jars/

DIY CHALK STYLE PAINT RECIPE USED IN CLASS

- 1 1/2 cups of latex paint
- 1/4 cup hot water
- 1/2 cup Plaster of Paris

Dissolve plaster into hot water, let cool to room temp and stir into paint.

Over time, paint mixture will thicken, add more paint or more water in small amounts to thin out.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Visit local craft stores, home décor shops, or home repair stores that carry chalk style paint and speak to experienced individuals.

- Use the internet to find blogs and video tutorials on various techniques.

- Most of the stores stated above carry catalogs or manuals where you can read up on the different brands of chalk style paint and the various techniques used.

- Talk to a friend that has worked with similar materials and ask about their experience and preferences.

TAKE SOME NOTES

SHOPPING LIST:

IDEAS