

# Our House *In Spring*



## WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Popular siding colors
- Spring planting pointers
- Luxurious bathroom features
- Modern kitchen accents
- Organizing your pantry  
*and more!*

**King**<sup>👑</sup>**Quality**  
ROOFING | SIDING | WINDOWS

**PEACE OF MIND  
FOR A LIFETIME**



**KINGQUALITY.COM**

**631.257.3639**



# New survey predicts 2025 siding color of the year

Planning to update your home siding this year? If you're like many Americans, you'll likely stick to neutral hues.

In the third annual national survey recently conducted by The Harris Poll, American homeowners reaffirmed off-white/cream as the most popular siding color (18%) if they were going to update the color of their home exterior in 2025 – extending its reign for three consecutive years. Understated elegance continues to dominate the market, with 42% of American homeowners saying they would go for a timeless, neutral look if choosing an exterior home color in 2025.

"The persistent preference for neutral and classic aesthetics like off-white and cream speaks to the palette's versatility and its ability to enhance curb appeal without overpowering the overall design of a home," said Ryan Gibson, business director, Vinyl & Composite Cladding.

"These hues are less likely to become outdated or decrease your home's resale value, making them a smart choice no matter which part of the United States you live in. They also provide a solid foundation for designing a home that allows for a more personal touch, giving accent colors and features space to make a statement," he said.



Conversely, bold colors are the least likely to be chosen by homeowners. In fact, 33% of American homeowners say one of the colors they would most likely avoid if updating their home exterior in 2025 is red.

"There is certainly a place for bolder colors. They are often used more prominently in certain architectural styles and can add a vibrant, eye-catching element when used thoughtfully. The key is to balance it with neutral tones and

consider the overall style of the home and neighborhood," added Gibson.

After off-white/cream, white (16%), light brown (13%), light gray (11%) and medium blue (8%) rounded out the top five color choices among American homeowners, if they were going to update the color of their home exterior in 2025.

Color choice doesn't stop at siding though. When adding complementary colors to accent home exteriors, about 62% of American homeowners typically match

the trim with their siding color. Other answers include: shutters (43%), porches and decks (38%), roofing (32%)

When asked how they would choose the exterior color, homeowners cite several key factors. In addition to going for a timeless, neutral look (42%), top answers include: cost (36%), availability (25%); their spouse or significant other will pick (22%), based on something they saw in a magazine/home improvement show (20%), and meets HOA/local guidelines (20%).

American homeowners are likely incorporating the trend of embracing warm neutrals into their specific siding material choices. Stone (25%) was the leading material preference they would choose when planning to purchase new siding. Mixed materials were a close second, with 22% of homeowners saying they would choose to mix stone, stucco or siding, perhaps for a balanced home exterior aesthetic. Vinyl (14%), vertical board and batten composite cladding (12%) and engineered wood (12%) rounded out the rest of the top five material choices.

If your 2025 plans include home exterior updates, consider how your selections will impact your home's long-term curb appeal and value. (Statepoint)

## Olsen's Nursery

olsennurseries.com

*We carry a full line of garden products*

*Call ahead for curbside pickups*

**We deliver:** Prompt, Radio Dispatched Trucks

**Hours:** Mon - Sat 7:30am - 6pm \* Sun 8am - 4pm

**386 Lake Ave. S., Nesconset**

**631.265.8093**

Over 50 years family owned • Knowledgeable friendly service

We're Closed Easter!

*You need it, we have!*

- Bulbs • Annuals
- Bulk Soil & Mulch
- Seeds
- Pool Sand • Gravel
- Early Flowering Trees
- Pavers • Stack Stone
- Fountains • Tools
- Flowering Shrubs
- Perennials

PANSIES - \$19<sup>99</sup> per flat

while supplies last.

HALF POT PLANTERS

GARDSMEN COCO LINERS IN HARD TO FIND SIZES

SHEPHERD'S HOOKS SINGLE, DOUBLE 3-8FT

FOX FARM PREMIUM MULCH

10X10=3' Deep • 1Yard = 100sq.ft.per.yd.

- \$18 Natural Per Yard
- \$32 Black Per Yard
- \$40 Red Per Yard
- \$40 Coco Per Yard

NEW SOD EVERY THURSDAY

2FT X 5FT

Natural & Organic Solutions!

Finally... A kid & pet friendly lawn program.

STACKSTONE LARGEST SELECTION OVER 12 VARIETIES NATURAL STONE

SPRINKLER & IRRIGATION SUPPLIES • HUNTED HEAVEN

©2023 960

# Stroll Into Spring...

*follow our garden path to*



- Pastel Mums
- Hyacinths
- Tulips & Daffodils
- Easter Lilies
- African Violets
- Pansy Bowls
- Flowering Trees
- House Plants
- Bird Baths

## KUNZ

**GREENHOUSE & NURSERY**

117 Hallock Avenue  
Port Jefferson Station  
(Corner of Route 112 & 25A)  
**631-473-3720**

*Open  
Easter  
Sunday  
9-2*

0595920



## Spring planting pointers

**M**any people view spring as a season of rejuvenation. That renewal may be somewhat metaphorical for human beings, but it's literal for lawns and gardens that begin to grow anew as temperatures rise and hours of daylight increase in spring.

Each spring presents an opportunity for homeowners to get back outside and tend to their gardens. As the temperatures rise, homeowners can consider these spring planning pointers to ensure their landscapes look lush and full in the months ahead.

**Start with the soil.** Soil can serve as the starting point each spring. Winter can take its toll on a garden and even overwhelm the area with debris over the colder months. Clear rocks and other debris from the area before loosening the soil. The Farmer's Almanac recommends loosening soil to a depth of at least eight inches if planting a new garden.

An existing garden may only need to be loosened to a depth of around six inches, after which homeowners can mix compost into the soil in early spring. Compost is organic matter that provides nutrients and helps to build strong plant roots.

**Consider a raised garden in colder climates.** The Farmer's Almanac notes raised gardens can help homeowners in colder climates dry out and warm up wet, cold soils more quickly. Homeowners in such regions also can cover their beds with black plastic or cardboard prior to planting. Doing so can protect the beds from late-season snow and spring rains and also helps to overcome erosion.

**Take soil temperatures.** Unpredictable weather is among the noticeable effects of

climate change in recent years. That lack of predictability can make spring planting a little more tricky than it once was. Experts note that soil temperatures around 50 F are best for cool-season crops, while soil should be 60 F or warmer when planting warm-weather plants such as tomatoes.

**Work with a garden center to identify what to plant.** The right plants for one region may not be ideal for another, so homeowners are urged to work with a local landscaper or garden center before planting. Such a consultation can be especially useful for homeowners planting a new garden. Landscapers and garden center professionals will know which plants work in the local climate.

**Consider planting vegetables in the spring.** Various garden experts note that spring is an ideal time to plant a vegetable garden. If planted at the right time, a vegetable garden can save homeowners money on their grocery bills and provide a season's worth of fresh veggies.

Vegetables to grow in the spring include sugar snap peas and snow peas, lettuce, spinach, radishes, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, beets, swiss chard, kale, kohlrabi, cucumbers, turnips, carrots, potatoes, raspberries and herbs like parsley, mint, chives, sage, and oregano. (Hold off planting basil until the middle of May.)

**Start prepping your compost pile.** Doing some spring raking? Throw those leaves and that plant debris into the pile! Trimming your perennials? Into the pile! Ensure that the compost you're going to use for your garden beds is removed and you add more to the pile with the spring cleaning you do. (Metro)

## WE FIX UNCOMFORTABLE HOMES!

**DID YOU KNOW...**  
*Insulation performs its Magic in the summer as well!*

**KEEP YOUR COOLED AIR IN YOUR HOME**

- ✓ Stay Cooler, Longer
- ✓ Lower Electric Bills
- ✓ More Comfortable
- ✓ Less Humid



**TRIPLE H INSULATION**  
ATTICS • BASEMENTS • CRAWL SPACES

**FOUR LEAF BEST OF LI**  
2025 Best Insulation Company

**PSEG** LONG ISLAND  
FREE PSEG Long Island Home Energy Assessment

**DON'T WAIT, INSULATE!**

**Best part...if you do it now, you'll be ready for another FREEZING winter!**

**SAVE MONEY ACT NOW!**

**631-318-8698**

Low monthly payments

\$250 OFF

ANY FULL ATTIC OR CRAWL SPACE PROJECT

Not to be combined with any other offer. Not valid for prior work. Must be presented and redeemed at time of appointment. Expires 4/30/25.

ALCOHOL BUSINESS A+

Google 5-Star Google Rating



Jill, owner

Suffolk 47109-H Nassau H1901670000 NYC 1351564-DCA ©264550

# Soak up these luxurious bathroom features

**K**itchens and bathrooms are two popular areas to address when renovating a home. Modernize Home Services says 26 percent of sellers make bathroom improvements to their homes before listing. Midscale bath remodels will net a return on investment of about 64 percent, while a luxury bathroom overhaul has an ROI of about 57 percent.

When considering bathroom renovations, homeowners may want to include some unique features that can add style and function, not to mention some much-deserved luxury. With that in mind, the following are some luxurious features to consider.

**Heated floors:** There is something to be said for stepping out of the shower and being met with warmth underfoot. Heated floors are not just for people who live in cold climates, either. When the air conditioning is pumping on hot days, tile floors can feel chilly. Heated floors also are aesthetically appealing because homeowners don't have to factor in baseboard heaters or forced-air vents.

**Steam showers:** There are many different steam showers on the market, and each can turn regular showers into steamy spa-like enclaves. A steam shower

is similar to a sauna and utilizes a steam generator to produce steam in a single area, advises Badeloft® Luxury Bathrooms.

**Soaking tub:** Although the majority of people shower as part of their daily hygiene routine, a deep soaking tub separate from the shower is ideal for those who enjoy a good bath.

**Luxury mirror:** Upgrading the bathroom mirror to one that offers features like defoggers, integrated lighting and a dimmer setting can elevate the bathroom.

**Floating vanity:** A floating vanity is mounted directly to the wall to leave space underneath. Better Homes & Gardens says a floating vanity can lend an airy feel to a bathroom.

**Frameless shower:** A frameless (glass) shower door is not only luxurious but also functional for people who want to age in place. With no edge or lip to step over to enter the shower, anyone with mobility challenges can walk into a frameless shower safely.

**Water closet:** If space allows, separating the toilet in a water closet from the rest of the bathroom space affords even more privacy. Plus, in couple's bathrooms, a water closet enables two to use the bathroom at the same time for different functions.



**Walk-in-closet:** Relocating the bedroom closet to right off the bathroom affords an immediate opportunity to dress comfortably and streamline a morning routine.

Bathroom renovations are worthwhile investments. Choosing some unique upgrades can enhance the design and function of these important spaces. (Metro)

## Imagine your home, totally organized! Custom Closets, Garage Cabinets, Home Office and more...



**40% Off** Plus take an extra 15% OFF  
**Plus Free Installation**

Terms and Conditions: 40% off any order of \$1000 or more or 30% off any order of \$700 or more on any complete custom closet, garage, or home office unit. Take an additional 15% off on any complete system order. Not valid with any other offer. Free installation with any complete unit order of \$600 or more. With incoming order, at time of purchase only. Offer not valid in all regions. Expires in 30 days.



Colleen has been a professional designer for over a decade. She is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). As a Senior Design Consultant, she has helped hundreds of families across Long Island with their home organizing needs. Colleen finds it most-rewarding to help her neighbors in the Three Village area where she and her family are residents.



Colleen Caemmerer, owner.

Virtual Design Services Available.



Call for a free in home design consultation and estimate

**800.293.3744**

www.closetsbydesign.com

**12 months**  
 special financing available\*

\*this credit card issued with approved credit by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.  
 Equal Housing Lender

Most Credit Cards Accepted  
 Licensed & Insured: Nassau Lic #H044534000  
 Suffolk Lic #47713H  
 NYC Consumer Affairs Lic #1360201 2000  
 © All Rights Reserved, Closet by Design, Inc.

Locally Owned & Operated!

Follow us    

TBR

©264800

# Happy Spring!

**Never Let the family be out of power again!**



Generac Automatic Standby Generator

**GEN READY** Inc.  
Be Smart... Be Prepared... Be GenReady.  
AUTHORIZED DEALER

0% Financing Available

**GENERAC**

**HAPPY Easter Passover**

128 Pulaski Road, Kings Park, N.Y. 11754 **(631) 544-0400**

www.GetGenReady.com

\*WITH THIS AD ONLY. RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



**RTD Seamless Gutters**

SERVICES: 5" Gutters • Gutter Cleanings • 6" Gutters  
Colored Gutters • Gutter Screens • Gutter Repairs  
FREE ESTIMATES • SENIOR DISCOUNT • MILITARY DISCOUNT

 **Ray Doino**  
516.527.1496

**Rdoino3@yahoo.com** ★★ ★

©261030 LIC # HI-66863/Insured



**EXTERIOR CLEANING SPECIALISTS**

**Roof Cleaning**  
Safe Foam Process  
Removal of black/green algae stains and moss

**Pressure Washing/Softwashing**  
Houses, Decks Patios, Fences, Furniture

**Paver Restorations** Cleaning, Polymeric Sanding, Sealing

**Gutter Maintenance** Cleaning, Repairs, Leaf Guards

**631.387.2156**  
**SqueakyCleanLI.com**  
P.O. Box 151, Saint James, NY  
Licensed #55467-H & Fully Insured



©261625

**JOE'S GENERAL CONTRACTING**

**UPDATE YOUR HOME**



- All Forms of Masonry
- Driveways/Sidewalks
- Pavers/ Brick/Block Work
- Culture Stone
- New Construction
- Home Improvements
- Revitalization Projects
- Residential/Commercial

**www.Joesgeneralcontracting.com**  
Lic. 3637H/ Ins.

**631-744-0752** OVER 45 YEARS EXPERIENCE



©264920

**VINCENT ALFANO LTD**  
**WWW.EXPERTFURNITURERESTORATION.COM**

50 years experience | Veteran owned  
**We can restore everything**  
On Angie list-see our all 5 star reviews  
Voted best quality and service 4 years in a row

**Preservation and Restoration**

**631-707-1228**  
**343 So Country Road**  
**Brookhaven**  
LICENSED/INSURED



©102755

**InnoWater**

Drink Innovated Water

**Don't Use Toxic Tap Water, Enjoy Healthier, Safer Water for You and Your Family!**

**What's in your water?**  
If you have ever noticed your water:  
• making your skin dry • leaving spots on your dishes  
• appearing cloudy • tasting bad  
then it is time to learn more about your water.  
**Remove Harmful Chemicals and Impurities**

**Call us now to schedule free water test 1(631) 615 0303**




©264770

**Silver Dollar**

**POTTERY AND CRAFTS**

- Gifts for Family & Friends in Gallery Store
- Classes in: Pottery & Watercolor, Knitting, Wine Bottle Painting + more

**631-849-2933**  
569 Rte. 25A, Rocky Point  
**www.silverdollarpottery.com**

©264790

**Above All Tree Service**

FREE ESTIMATES  
TREE REMOVAL  
STUMP GRINDING

 Call Bryan: **631.928.4544**  
Email: AboveAllTree@live.com  
AboveAllTree.com

LIC. 33122-H



©0485700

**Transform Your Property Into A Private Retreat**

LANDSCAPE DESIGN | WATERSCAPES LAWN & GARDEN | MASONRY

 **R.J.K. GARDENS**  
CREATIVE LANDSCAPING  
DESIGN • CONSTRUCTION • MAINTENANCE



©212270



## Seven benefits to adding retaining walls in your yard

Homes are not always located on flat lots. In fact, landscapes can feature hills and valleys, necessitating some extra steps when installing certain features. Retaining walls are often utilized to improve the functionality and safety of a property.

Retaining walls are typically recommended to eliminate soil erosion and improve drainage, says Design One Landscape Corporation. Over time, soil erosion or drainage issues can eat into the structural integrity of a home and cause cosmetic damage and unhealthy conditions, such as mold growth. Here's a look at six instances when installing a retaining wall can be advantageous.

**Remedy a slope in the yard:** Retaining walls help make sloped areas functional. The wall will help flatten the slope so that water and soil do not flow downward.

**Make the yard easier to traverse:** A retaining wall can make it easier to walk around a sloped yard. Rather than contending with the hill both uphill and downhill, particularly if it's steep, the retaining wall can be installed to create flat areas that are easier to navigate.

**Manage water runoff:** Retaining walls can hold back or redirect water to help prevent flooding. A wall can be used to keep water away from the foundation, where it may enter the home.

**Prevent soil erosion:** Along with keeping water back, the retaining wall also will stop soil erosion and water runoff so it doesn't cause an unsightly condition in the yard, or prove dangerous during severe weather.

**Prevent sink holes:** By helping to manage water runoff, retaining walls can reduce the risk of sinkholes. According to Slaton Bros, Inc., a retaining wall service provider, sinkholes occur when enough water pools beneath the surface of the ground to weaken it to the point of not being capable of supporting the ground's surface weight.

**Improve curb appeal:** Retaining walls also may serve cosmetic functions. They provide additional surfaces upon which to place container plants, or additional decorations. Retaining walls also can provide backdrops to shrubs and separate grassy areas from patios or swimming pools.



If you don't already have a fire pit, this might be a good time to add one. And they are a handy option for extra seating when placed at the edge of your patio. Then you've not only solved a landscaping problem, you've created a new outdoor living feature that you'll enjoy for years to come.

**Adds property value:** Continuing with the theme of curb appeal, retaining walls add property value to your home. Market research has shown that prospective buyers are drawn to homes with attractive

landscaping and an existing outdoor living space. They also prefer homes in which someone has already prevented or resolved all of the problems.

According to the American Society of Landscape Architects, such investments in landscaping can add up to 20% to the value of a home. Plus, an average return of 100 to 200 percent in resale.

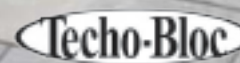
Retaining walls marry form and function. Homeowners with sloped yards or drainage issues should consider installing retaining walls to address these issues. (Metro)

**J.M. TROFFA**  
Hardscape, Mason & Building Supply, Inc.

Specializing in:  
Paving Stones  
Retaining Wall Systems  
Outdoor Living Features  
Brick - Block - Stone

Delivery Available  
**631-828-1420**

70 Comsewogue Rd., Suite 21  
East Setauket  
troffahardscape.com



# Make a Statement...

with flooring that shows off your style and taste!



Carpet • Laminate • Hardwood • Area Rugs • Waterproof Flooring

**CARPET  
YOUR WORLD**  
We Go That Extra Yard!

631-737-0638  
2838 Middle Country Road • Lake Grove  
carpetyourworld.com

©256210



## 3 things you should know before purchasing a carpet

**N**o two homeowners are the same, and that's perhaps most evident in the design decisions individuals make when decorating their homes. Flooring is among the first things a person notices when entering a home, and the array of options consumers have when choosing flooring materials underscores how unique each homeowner is.

Carpeting is a popular flooring option. Many homeowners prefer carpeting because they feel it helps to create a cozy, welcoming vibe in a home. Consumers considering carpet for their homes may have some common questions, and answers to those inquiries can help homeowners determine if carpeting is for them.

### Is carpeting expensive?

Home renovations are expensive, and the cost of a project is often the first question homeowners have. The cost of carpeting varies widely and is contingent on an array of variables unique to each home and homeowner, including square footage, materials chosen by the homeowner and the cost of labor associated with installation, which can vary significantly between locations.

According to the online renovation resource HomeAdvisor, the average cost to install or replace carpet is between \$782 and \$2,812. That wide range illustrates how much the cost of the project will be affected by variables unique to each project. However, even homeowners who come in around or above the high end of that estimate may find carpet installation is among the more affordable ways to give the interior of a home an entirely new look and feel.

### How different are carpeting materials?

Carpeting materials differ in their look, feel and function. Some carpet fibers are better suited to areas in a home that attract a lot of foot traffic, while others make for better options in areas with less use, such as a bedroom or home office. For example, Angi.com notes that polyester has a luxurious, soft feel, making it a strong option for bedroom floors. Nylon carpet fiber is resistant to stains and damage and maintains its height under heavy weight, making this a good option in heavily trafficked rooms. Homeowners can discuss each carpeting material with their flooring retailer to determine which suits their budget and which is best in each room of their homes.

### Is carpet padding a must?

Carpet padding is one of the costs associated with carpeting. When shopping for carpeting for the first time, homeowners may notice carpet padding costs on their estimate and wonder what it is and if it's truly necessary.

Carpet padding is necessary, as it keeps the underside of the carpet from wearing against the subfloor while absorbing the impact of foot traffic and furniture. That absorption helps to reduce stress on the carpet and thus extend its life expectancy. Carpet padding also can have an insulating effect and help to reduce sound in a room. So while carpet padding might be a costly expense on an itemized estimate, it's well worth the investment.

Carpeting can help make a home feel more cozy and welcoming. Homeowners can work with a local carpeting retailer to find a carpet that meets their needs and fits their budget. (Metro)

©264760

# Transform Your Property Into A Private Retreat

LANDSCAPE DESIGN | WATERSCAPES  
LAWN & GARDEN | MASONRY



**R.J.K. GARDENS**

CREATIVE LANDSCAPING  
DESIGN • CONSTRUCTION • MAINTENANCE

547 Lake Avenue | St. James, NY 11780  
631.862.7056 | rjkgardens.com





# Fun and innovative modern kitchen accents

**K**itchens are the hub of many homes. Perhaps due to their popularity as gathering spaces, kitchens are popular rooms to renovate to ensure they remain functional and attractive through the years.

Online resources such as Houzz and Fixr indicate kitchens are consistently ranked among the most popular rooms to renovate. In 2022, 42 percent of homeowners were motivated to remodel their kitchens, according to data from Statista. Homeowners looking to enhance the functionality and look of their kitchens can consider these fun and innovative features as they plan their renovations.

## Concealed countertop appliances

The latest small appliances and gadgets can make easy work of preparing food, but these devices can add to kitchen clutter. A roll-down door “appliance garage” will conceal appliances kept on counters.

## Cleverly placed storage

Additional storage also can give kitchens a cleaner look. Narrow, pull-out drawers can be nestled in between cabinets or appliances to make the most of tight spaces. These spots are perfect for utensils or spice containers.



## Mixer lift

Baking enthusiasts will cheer if they don't have to lift a heavy stand mixer when preparing foods. A mixer lift is an innovative feature that enables homeowners to raise and lower the mixer from a dedicated cabinet any time it's needed.

## Double dishwashers

Double dishwashers can be a game-changer for households that frequently entertain or those with larger families who cook often. While a standard dishwasher will handle the bulk of your dirty dishes, a second unit can be a valuable addition.

Consider a dishwasher drawer for smaller items like glassware, silverware, and serving pieces.

## Double ovens

Double ovens are built directly into cabinetry and offer convenience and a sleek, modern look. Two ovens can make entertaining crowds easier, and separating the ovens from the burners lets homeowners install a cooktop elsewhere in the kitchen, which can expand floorplan options.

## Microwave drawer

A microwave drawer maximizes space and boasts a sleek design. Instead of installing a microwave above a stove, homeowners can enjoy a beautiful range hood.

## Wine refrigerator

Available in a variety of sizes, wine refrigerators offer stylish storage for any wine lover's collection. A refrigerator can be installed into an island or lower cabinet and integrated into the rest of the kitchen.

## Pot filler

A special faucet near the cooktop makes it much easier to fill heavy pasta pots. A pot filler can be quite handy for those who cook a lot and do not want to lug heavy pots from the sink to the stove. (Metro)

## GREAT TASTE IN KITCHENS



Experience The  
*Setauket* Kitchen & Bath  
Difference...

## Design to Completion

We guarantee top quality products & craftsmanship for the perfect blend of form and function

Call today  
for your free estimate!

631.751.1213

183 MAIN STREET (25A)  
SETAUKET, NY

WWW.SETAUKETKITCHENS.COM



*Setauket*

KITCHEN & BATH



## Never be without power again!

The best time to buy your stand by generator is when you don't need it.

- Flex Financing
- Full Product Support
- Permits and Filing
- Warranties & Service
- Certified Factory Trained Installers
- Installation & Repair
- Family Owned & Operated



**0%**  
Financing Available\*

Ask about our **FREE** 5 YEAR Parts & Labor Warranty

Automatic Standby Generator

**GEN READY** Inc.  
Be Smart... Be Prepared... Be GenReady.  
AUTHORIZED DEALER



**GENERAC**



128 Pulaski Road, Kings Park, N.Y. 11754  
**(631) 544-0400**

www.GetGenReady.com • office@GetGenReady.com • Licensed and Insured

NASSAU LICENSE #H0 107000000 SUFFOLK LICENSE# 2740-ME

\*WITH THIS AD ONLY. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. CALL FOR DETAILS.

## Pantry problems? Get organized with practical hacks

No matter how big or small your space may be, the pantry probably seems to fill to the brim like magic. Canned goods, cereal boxes, small kitchen appliances, cleaning supplies... The list goes on, and it likely leaves you feeling a bit unorganized each time you reach for a package of spaghetti noodles or a dash of taco seasoning.



Relieve your pantry shelves (and your mind) with some creative ways to reorganize that oh-so-important room.

### Start with a cleanout

Spice blend you can't pronounce that expired three years ago? Trash. That bag of veggie chips your family won't touch? Toss them. The best place to start when organizing the pantry is simply throwing out expired items and anything that's just taking up valuable space. In fact, it's best to remove everything from the pantry so you can clean it out entirely before restocking the shelves in an orderly manner.

### Categorize items

Once the pantry is bare (and properly cleaned, while you've got it emptied anyway) it's helpful to categorize items before they go back in. For example, cleaning supplies should be grouped in an area where they're easy to access. Gather those canned goods that found themselves strewn about and neatly stack them. Other like items to group include snack foods, spices and seasonings, baking essentials, small appliances and condiments.

### Use practical containers

It's tempting to add some pizzazz to your newly refreshed pantry with cute containers, but simple and clear is best

so you can quickly identify ingredients and cooking supplies you're looking for while busy in the kitchen. Stacking items and containers saves valuable room, and for anything that can't stack (like bags of chips or loose produce), try clear bins to keep them contained.

### Take advantage of wall and door space

If you're still feeling squeezed for space, it's time to get creative. Wall hooks allow you to hang brooms, mops and more so those items aren't just leaning in a corner and blocking part of a shelf. Inexpensive organizers can be hung on the backside of pantry doors to hold items that may not stack well on shelves, such as oil bottles, small bags or items you often use and need to access quickly.

Don't forget floor space! Keep appliances — slow cookers, pressure cookers, toaster ovens, etc. — on the floor under your lowest shelf (if there's room) so you can save crucial shelf space for actual food.

Finally, once your pantry is organized, it is important to keep it that way! It's easy to come home from the store and unload items in any space you can find, but maintaining a neat, tidy space requires a little diligence. (Culinary.Net)

## Love Our 2025 Grads!

Let's Celebrate and Support Our Grads with a Grand TBR News Media Community Celebration!

### Lots of ways to celebrate

Publish your high school grad's favorite photo, a fun candid picture or their senior picture — your choice! Scan the QR code & upload your grad's photo at [tbrnewsmedia.com/grad-submissions](http://tbrnewsmedia.com/grad-submissions) by **5 pm Friday, June 6**. Include their name and school name and we will publish the photos for **FREE** in our Award Winning Graduate Issue on July 3.\*

\*PLEASE NOTE: Only submissions with required info will be published

Want to honor your graduate with a special commemorative message printed in the issue and online? Call our office at **631-751-7744** for rates and details.

SCAN ME!  
➔



**PUBLISHED JULY 3!**



FOR DETAILS CALL NOW **631-751-7744**  
TIMES BEACON RECORD NEWS MEDIA  
185 Route 25A, Setauket, NY 11733

©264730



**Did you miss our TBR Readers' Choice Awards?**

Go online at [tbrnewsmedia.com](http://tbrnewsmedia.com) to see the Best Businesses on Suffolk's North Shore voted by our readers and your customers.

Need a copy of the issue? Call **631-751-7744**



©264730

# The benefits of working with a professional painter

Few home improvements can change the look of a room faster and more affordably than a painting makeover. In fact, homeowners often turn to paint before they make any other renovations. Home Light, a real estate technology company, says painting a home's interior can net a return on investment as high as 107 percent.

Although painting is a project that can be tackled by do-it-yourselfers, there are various advantages to calling in a professional to handle painting projects. Here is a look at some of the benefits to working with a professional painter.

## **Cut down on the job time**

A professional painter can reduce the project timeline. Painters have the skill set and experience to complete a project in a timely manner. This means the job will be streamlined from preparation to clean-up.

## **Reduce your workload**

Painting can be a time-consuming job, and most of it occurs even before you pick up a brush. It can take hours to prep walls, patch holes, remove moldings, and apply painter's tape. Homeowners who do not have much time are better off leaving trusting the project to a professional.



## **Painters already have equipment**

Do-it-yourselfers may need to buy new tools before beginning the job. This means brushes, rollers, tape, tarps, trays, and much more. Unless you plan to paint multiple times, this can make stocking up

a considerable investment. Professionals already have all the right gear and tools of the trade.

## **Pay attention to details**

Professional painters are likely to do a job that is nearly flawless, especially after

homeowners exercise their due diligence and vet painters carefully. Professionals will pay attention to the small details that less experienced painters wouldn't think about.

## **Lasting results**

Professional painters understand which products will produce the desired results, depending on the wear and tear of the space. Paints are not all created equal, and certain walls, floors and trim may require unique priming and preparation that novices are not familiar with. Professional painters can help ensure durability and save homeowners from having to do the job again in a few months or years.

## **A safer experience**

Painting can be a challenging job when it involves painting hard-to-reach spaces and/or climbing and balancing on tall ladders. Homeowners are not at risk of injury when hiring a professional painter. In addition, professional painters should be licensed and insured. This means if an injury or incident occurs, the homeowner will not be on the hook for the cost.

A fresh coat of paint can produce amazing results. Leaving the work to a professional can ensure a job is done correctly and completed on time. (Metro)



*"We take pride in our work"*

**Ryan Southworth**  
**631-331-5556**

Licensed/Insured      Since 1989

#37074-H; RI 18499-10-34230

**CERTIFIED LEAD PAINT REMOVAL**

- Interiors • Exteriors
- Cabinet Refinishing, Staining & Painting
- Faux Finishes
- Power Washing
- Finishing Carpentry
- Tape & Spackling
- Staining & Deck Restoration

**BBB A1 Rating**  
#1 Recommendation on BBB website



©259740

Banking that lets you...

**LIVE MORE!**



**HOME EQUITY  
LINE OF CREDIT**

Introductory Rate As Low As

**6.09%**<sup>1</sup>  
APR\*

Fixed First 12 Months<sup>1</sup>

- No Closing Cost Option Available<sup>2</sup>
- Borrow up to 100% of Home's Value<sup>3</sup>
- Quick Turnaround Time



APPLY here, visit an Island branch  
or go to [islandfcu.com/homeequity](https://islandfcu.com/homeequity)

631-656-5292

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rate accurate as of 04-04-2025; subject to change. <sup>1</sup>Rate featured is the lowest for the product. After introductory rate, APR varies based on prime rate plus a margin; margin disclosed at account opening. Current prime rate 7.50%. Variable rate; maximum rate of 16%. May be offered credit at a higher rate and other terms; subject to credit approval. Hazard insurance required on all loans. <sup>2</sup>No closing costs option only available for limits up to \$500,000 for a primary residence located in Nassau or Suffolk County, excluding cost of appraisal. Must maintain minimum balance requirements for first 12 months for introductory rate and 36 months to avoid payment of closing costs. Other terms and conditions apply. <sup>3</sup>Available for primary residence, single family homes. Loan to values of 85% or greater, maximum loan amount of \$250,000. Additional terms and conditions apply. Membership eligibility applies.

Federally insured by NCUA.



264040