

October 2021 Issue

Community News

Most Popular DIY Home Renovations in 2021

Almost half of American homeowners (46%) plan to upgrade or remodel their home this year, a recent survey by LendingHome found. And some of those homeowners plan to DIY their upgrades, likely as a way to cut down on expenses.

Minor Facelifts (Flooring and Paint)

According to the LendingHome survey, 57% of Americans are planning to DIY cosmetic upgrades, such as redoing their flooring or repainting.

The cost of these projects can vary based on the materials and scope. According to HomeAdvisor, the total cost to install flooring is between \$3 and \$22 per square foot depending on the material, with an average price of about \$3,000 to cover a 500-square-foot space.

The cost of painting also depends on what you're planning to do. A small project such as painting a door or cabinets can cost between \$200 to \$600 for supplies – but since labor is the biggest expense, you will definitely save by DIY-ing. Painting a home's exterior is a more ambitious – and pricey – upgrade, with an average cost of around \$3,000.

Should You DIY?

Whether or not you should attempt to do your own flooring will depend on what kind of material you are using.

"There are several types of flooring that can be easily installed DIY," said Stefania Filizola of Fixr.com, a home remodeling information website. "Vinyl and laminate click-lock or floating flooring is a great example. Some types of tile are also very easy to DIY. The trick here is to go for mid-sized tiles – six to 12 inches. Mosaics and large format tiles do take some specialized knowledge. In all of these cases, you can rent the tools you need to cut the flooring at your local big-box store."

Filizola said that most interior painting is also a project you can DIY. "Make sure you take your time and don't try to cut corners," she said. "Tape everything. Remove the baseboards and the outlet covers. Use a primer if you're going from very dark to very light or vice versa. Take the time to cut in your edges and lay a

drop cloth. As long as you don't try to rush it, you'll be in good shape." However, exterior painting should be left to the pros.

Outdoor Space Improvements

54% of Americans surveyed by LendingHome said they would DIY upgrades to their outdoor spaces.

Once again, the cost varies greatly depending on the scope of a project. If you plan to install a patio or walkway, it will cost \$3 to \$6 per square foot for basic materials, according to HomeAdvisor.

Should You DIY?

"While decks should probably be left to the pros, there's no reason why you can't lay your own patio or walkway," Filizola said. "Again, take your time. Make sure you level the area, put down a good base and fit the material together properly. Done slowly and with care, this can be a beautiful project that will last for years." notice certainly has its appeal.

Bedroom Upgrades

Bedroom upgrades are another popular DIY project, with 53% of those surveyed saying they would be willing to tackle this renovation themselves.

If you plan to install wallpaper, you can expect to pay \$0.80 to \$4.50 per square foot depending on the material, according to HomeAdvisor. If you want to redecorate the entire room, the project can cost up to \$10,000, according to Kathy Kuo Home.

Should You DIY?

Filizola said that most bedroom upgrades can be done on your own, including removing carpet and replacing it with laminate, painting walls, installing new molding, adding shelves, and installing new window blinds and drapes.

"Since most of the bedroom updates are surface only, this is a great space to tackle a DIY project," she said. "Just be sure to leave any lighting or window upgrades to the pros."

Article adapted from 'These are the Most Popular DIY Home Renovations in 2021' September 29, 2021 By Gabrielle Olya, MSN.com.



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What's New at WCCU!

WCCU Voted Best in 3 Categories

WCCU was recently voted Best Credit Union, Best Mortgage Company and Best Financial Advisor by the Sun Media Group's Sixth Annual Readers' Choice Awards poll.

"We are very proud to have been voted the **Best Credit Union, Best Mortgage Company, and the Best Financial Advisor** by the people within the communities we serve," stated Stephen White, President/CEO of Westerly Community Credit Union. "This endorsement is a great accomplishment and belongs to our dedicated staff for their commitment to the financial well-being of our Members."



On behalf of the WCCU Board of Directors, Supervisory Committee and Staff: Thank You for voting us #1!

Visit westerlyccu.com/voted-best to learn more.

Complimentary Virtual Seminars

WCCU members have unlimited access to complimentary seminars covering a variety of topics to increase financial awareness. Below is a schedule of topics for October:

- Tuesday, October 5:** Redefining a Diversified Portfolio
- Tuesday, October 12:** The 3 Transitions to Retirement
- Tuesday, October 19:** Social Security
- Tuesday, October 26:** Medicare
- Tuesday, November 2:** How to Weather a Bear Market

Visit westerlyccu.com/seminars to register.

#TeamWCCU in the Community

WCCU Cares: WCCU is a proud sponsor of the Alzheimers Association. Well done #TeamWCCU! A big shout out of appreciation to our Chief Marketing Officer & SVP of Retail Experience, Meg Sisco for her work helping to organize the Westerly Walk to End Alzheimer's!

Visit westerlyccu.com/events for a schedule of upcoming events.



WCCU Celebrates Promotions

Jamal Paire has been promoted to Director of Asset Quality. Jamal has been with WCCU since 2015, most recently serving as the Financial Service Manager of the Granite Street Branch.



Amy Clark has been promoted to Financial Service Manager of the Granite Street Branch. Amy has been with WCCU since 2006, most recently serving as the Financial Service Manager of the Richmond Branch.



Congratulations on your new positions!

WCCU Teacher Grant Application Reminder



\$8,500 Available!

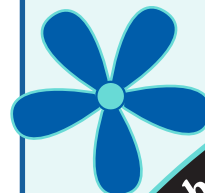
Grants will be awarded in values up to \$500

Apply at westerlyccu.com/teacher-grant now through **October 31, 2021!**

Dates to Remember

- Saturday, October 2:** Greater Westerly Heart Walk
- Monday, October 11:** Closed in Observance of Columbus Day
- Sunday, October 31:** Teacher Grant Application Deadline

Visit westerlyccu.com/events for details!



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