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# SPRING HOME & GARDEN 2023

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**HOME  
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## Spring Home & Garden 2023

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# Budget-friendly ways to freshen up your home's exterior

As any homeowner knows, renovation projects tend to cost a lot of money. The average cost of a home renovation is difficult to gauge, as such endeavors run the gamut from complex projects like a kitchen overhaul to simpler ones like painting a room inside a home. Indeed, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry notes that scope is what drives the cost of a renovation project.

Though there might not be an "average cost" of a renovation project, homeowners can expect to spend thousands of dollars on projects that are not very small in scale. Navigating such an expense at a time when inflation remains high might be difficult for some homeowners looking to maintain the appearance of their home exteriors. However, there are many budget-friendly ways homeowners can tend to the exterior of their properties.

· Power washing: Power washing won't break the bank but it can revive the look of a home. Power washing removes dirt and grime from the siding of a home and a power washing can be used to clean porches, walkways and patios as well. Hardware chains like Home Depot and Lowes typically rent



power washers, but homeowners who don't want to do it themselves can hire a professional for a few hundred dollars, if not less. Power washing after winter can be a good idea, as the elements can take a toll on a home's exterior. A good power washing before spring and summer entertaining season can thus give a home a fresh, clean look without breaking the bank.

· Furnished front porch: A furnished front porch can serve

as a welcome sign to neighbors and provide a great place to relax with a morning cup of coffee and a good book. Homeowners with a small porch won't need to bust their budgets to upgrade their front porch furnishings. Some small chairs with bright cushions, a small table and a rug underfoot can revamp an entryway at low cost.

· Window box installation: Installing window box planters is another cost-effective way to

brighten up a home's exterior. Homeowners can hang window boxes outside windows on the front of their homes and then fill them with brightly colored flowers to add an inviting pop of color to their home exteriors. The experts at Better Homes & Gardens urge homeowners to take weight into consideration before buying window planters. Keep in mind that soil and developed plants can be heavy, so look for a sturdy box as well as one that has drainage holes.

· Replace hardware: Another simple way to freshen up a stale exterior is to replace hardware. Door knobs, knockers, house numbers, and even the mailbox can appear dated after a while. Replacing these items is inexpensive and quick but can have a profound impact on how the exterior of a home appears to residents and visitors.

Exterior renovations need not break the bank. Various simple and inexpensive tweaks can quickly revitalize the exterior of a home.



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# Designing with layers: The latest trends in home decor

By Budget Blinds

A recent Houzz survey of design professionals and homeowners featured seven trends as we move into 2023. They include:

- 1) The Return of Color
- 2) Playful Traditional Style
- 3) Layers of Texture
- 4) Connection to the Outdoors
- 5) Natural Materials
- 6) Modern Rustic Styling
- 7) Warm Kitchen Colors & Innovating Islands

### Homeowners Want More Color

A renewed interest in adding color is one of the most frequently mentioned updates in the survey. Why color now after years of gray and white? One simple reason: our extended time at home made us realize we miss color! Plus, as we have become comfortable in our homes, it has given us the confidence to use our favorite colors, whether on-trend or not! Designers are also going all in with color, from moody saturated walls in a study or office to a pop of color through accessories like pillows, rugs, and artwork.

Color can also be added through custom window coverings! Budget Blinds can match a paint color for your blinds or shutters or create a bold

custom fabric for drapery, pillows, and Roman shades. No need to settle for neutral; turn your windows into a work of art with a custom design in your favorite colors.

### Traditional Goes Playful. What exactly is Playful Traditional?

The phrase is not only popping up in the recent Houzz survey but also in design magazines. Homeowners, especially millennial first-time homeowners, are embracing the comfort of traditional styling but with a twist. They are adding their personality to the style with new colors, modern patterned wallpaper, and an eclectic mix of vintage and modern furniture in a room with classic traditional architectural details. Less minimalist and more layered, less structured and more playfully mixed.

Layered shades and draperies are a perfect complement to the playful traditional look. Picture classic pinch pleat drapes in a playful print or bold updated color layered over a textured woven shade – the ideal combination of classic elements in an updated style. Mix in acrylic hardware or mixed metal drapery hardware for playful styling to finish off the look.

### Natural Materials Add Organic Style

As you flip through home design magazines or scan new homes for sale, you will notice that natural materials are trending! The recent Houzz survey confirms that natural is in; from stone countertops and white oak cabinetry to wood floors, handmade tiles, and stone fireplaces, a natural organic feel is on-trend for 2023 and beyond.

### Layers of Texture

Natural elements are also featured in layers of texture, from light fixtures and wallpapers to accessories and window treatments. Using rattan, wood, stone, and warm metals add a beautiful layer to any space. Picture the perfect

combination of layered texture with draperies in a natural organic material layered over woven shades of jute or bamboo in a room filled with handmade pottery, naturally dried florals, and other organic accessories.

### Connecting to the Outdoors with Large Windows

Windows are getting more prominent, and large triple sliding glass doors are often featured elements of home remodels or new builds. Our love of the outdoors, combined with the natural benefits of sunlight, has made us seek a connection with nature and bringing the outdoors in.

These large openings, while giving us the best views and abundant natural light, also create a challenge when it comes to window coverings. You won't find off-the-shelf solutions. Instead, you need to seek the advice of a trusted window covering provider like Budget Blinds. With options from custom draperies to sliding panels and by-pass shutters, Budget Blinds has the perfect options to filter light and give you a layer of privacy when needed no matter what size your windows are.

### Modern Rustic Style for the Rooms You Live In

In the recent Houzz survey, homeowners wanted a modern yet rustic and cozy style for their main living space. The top features requested included stone fireplaces, wood beams, and a mix of comfortable furniture in warm neutrals like cream, beige and brown. Think more of griegie and siege than the stark grays of the past few years.

Don't panic if you just bought a gray sofa or painted your walls gray, warm the room up with a lighter rug and add cream and beige pillows to your sofa. Or warm up the space with modern light-filtering roller shades in an off-white or choose a warm white woven shade to brighten up the room.

### Kitchen Colors Trend Toward Warm & Welcoming

Extending from the living space into the kitchen is a trend toward warm, soft colors for a restful and relaxing style. The survey results and color choices may reflect how our time spent in the kitchen has changed over the past three years. Our kitchens have transformed from a place where kids drop their backpacks and the mail piles up to a haven where we enjoy family meals and game nights or conversations about school and work. It is where we gather. This change has also resulted in a redesign of the "typical" kitchen island. For 2023, Houzz sees islands reconfiguring from the traditional row of barstools to a larger two-sided seating style more conducive to conversation.

### 2023 is About Personalization

From a bold use of color to soft neutrals, 2023 reveals a mix of home décor options. Like the wide-ranging difference in the color of the year selections from Sherwin Williams's quiet neutral Redend Point to Benjamin Moore's bright bold Raspberry Blush, homeowners are choosing to reflect their personalities and color choices in their homes whether its trending or not.

Budget Blinds understands personalization; it is what we offer daily to the thousands of homeowners we serve. We customize every detail, from the fit to the color to the style for your home and budget.

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# Creating a private space on your property

Many homeowners recognize they might need to tweak their landscapes if they hope to create a private oasis outside.

An inviting backyard can serve as a welcome retreat from the hustle and bustle of daily life. After a long day at the office or an exhausting day spent transporting kids to and fro, it's hard to resist the allure of a peaceful outdoor space in which to unwind.

Privacy is a key component of any backyard oasis. Some homes may be so remote that privacy isn't an issue. But many suburban homeowners recognize they might need to tweak their landscapes if they hope to create a private oasis outside.

**Fencing or planting?**

Most homeowners looking to create more privacy on their property will have to choose between fencing and planting. Fencing provides immediate privacy because, once it's installed, no one can see into the yard. Fencing also doesn't require watering or other immediate upkeep, which will be necessary when planting to ensure tree roots can establish themselves.

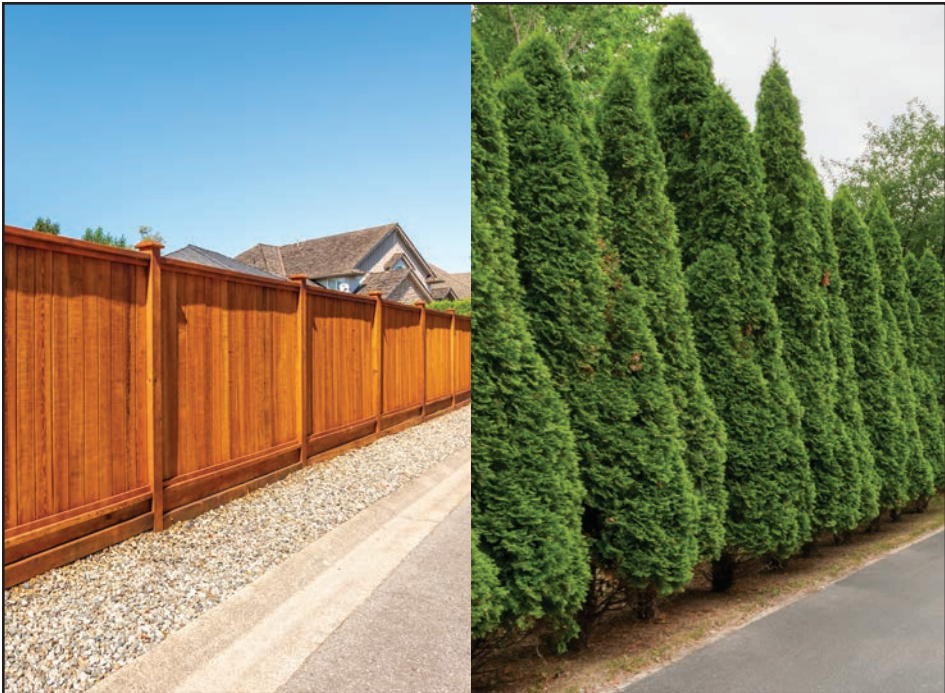
But planting has its benefits as well. Planting for privacy is essentially creating a living fence that can grow over time and provide even more privacy as trees reach maturity. Plants also tend to be less costly than

fencing. The home renovation experts at BobVila.com estimate that fencing projects typically cost between \$1,667 and \$4,075. However, fencing projects can cost considerably more than \$4,000, especially for homeowners with large properties they want to enclose. Large, mature trees can be expensive, though it's unlikely they will cost as much as fencing. In addition, fencing requires more maintenance and will potentially need to be replaced, while native trees won't require much upkeep and can last for generations.

**Planting**

Homeowners who choose to plant for privacy will next have to decide which type of plants to add to their properties. Evergreens provide year-round privacy because they don't shed their leaves, so these are the ones most often chosen when creating a living fence. A number of varieties of evergreen trees can do the job, but it's important that homeowners consult with a landscape architect prior to choosing trees so they can ensure the trees will thrive when faced with the growing conditions on their properties. During such a consultation, homeowners may discuss the following popular privacy trees.

- Leyland cypress: The Arbor Day



Foundation® notes that the Leyland cypress is popular for hedges and boundaries, likely because a typical tree reaches a mature height of 60'-70' and can spread as wide as 25'. The Leyland cypress grows fast, which may appeal to homeowners who don't want to wait to establish privacy.

- Green Giant Arborvitae: There are different varieties of the arborvitae, but the Green Giant tends to be the go-to option for privacy. The ADF notes that Green Giants will grow up to three feet per year until they reach maturity, providing a fast-growing option for privacy planters. The Green Giant can spread as wide as 20 feet at maturity, which is another attribute that makes it so popular among homeowners desiring privacy.

- Eastern White Pine: The ADF notes that the eastern white pine, which can reach heights as high as 80 feet, is favored in spacious yards. That's likely due to its height and its potential spread, which can reach 40 feet. Homeowners who choose the eastern white pine might like it for its resemblance to a Christmas tree, and in fact it is widely used for that purpose. The privacy provided by the eastern white pine is significant, but it might be best suited to especially large properties.

Whether it's fencing or planting, homeowners have many options to consider as they seek to create more privacy on their properties.

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# Landscape and gardening tips from the desk of Charles Guthals

## Don't Power Rake

Do not power rake your yard! Some of you may doubt the rationale of such a statement but hear me out.

We readily admit that every lawn, regardless of grass type, will develop thatch. That's just the nature of the plant. In our southwest lawns, leaving thatch year after year can present a variety of problems. First of all, thatch inhibits the passage of oxygen and nutrients into the soil. It also restricts the flow of the pesticides that we apply for insect control. It will encourage shallow rooting because moisture tends to be held high in the soil rather than following the normal pattern of deep penetration. All of these are thatch problems in any lawn.

The point of all this is that there is a much better way to rid your lawn of thatch rather than power raking. That "better way" is Soil Activator from natural Guard. I have used this on my own lawn for the past several years and couldn't be more pleased. The product is applied with a fertilizer spreader, so the process is much cleaner than power raking. Soil Activator works by decomposing the thatch, and the thatch then becomes humus for the soil, and anytime you add humus to the soil it's a plus.

Best of all, the cost for the material for an average size lawn of 4,000 sq.ft. is about \$40. It's cleaner, more beneficial and costs less.

## Gardening Time Is About Here

With all the recent cold weather, we probably would question the sanity of this title! If we look at the calendar, we might think it's far too early to be thinking such thoughts, but there are some things we could be doing in preparation for the upcoming gardening season. As dry as we have been all winter, we could certainly give our garden spot a good deep drink, something on the order of 1 1/2" – 2" of water. When the surface of the dirt has dried following the watering, add your favorite compost or mulch, and spade or till in about 6" 8" deep, and rake smooth. If desired, you could also add fertilizer and spade or till that in also. If rabbits are a problem, you may broadcast blood meal around the garden to repel dogs, cats, and rabbits. A fringe benefit to the use of blood meal is the fact that it is a good source of organic nitrogen, so don't over apply around your plants.

**Guthals Nursery opened in 1944. Second generation owner Charles Guthals wrote gardening and landscaping information and tips and published them in an ad every week. Third generation owner Charlton Guthals is preparing for the nursery's 79th anniversary in May 2023.**

## Crabgrass and Grass Burs

Does crabgrass cover most of your yard? Do grass burs keep you from enjoying your yard in the summer? If you answered yes to either of these questions, you need Ferti•lome All Seasons Preventer plus lawn food.

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## Evergreen Pests

All over town we are seeing pest problems on evergreens of all kinds. On pine, we are seeing needle scale which looks like fly specs on the needs, and if left untreated, the needle turns brown and dies.

Another pest we are seeing is the larva of the pitch moth. Evidence of the pitch moth activity is a white sap being emitted from the side of the trunk or the fork in a branch. This white sap flow will crystallize and forma crust, but the larva are still active. These young insects are best controlled with a systemic such as Merit.

Another pest on evergreens we are seeing in large numbers is the red spider mite. This spider is minute and difficult to see but leaves behind a web that will collect the blowing dirt, thus making the host evergreen look dirty or dingy. Left unchecked, these tiny spiders will inflict serious damage or even death to the plant. The best means of control of these pests is Permethrin in either a 10% or 38% concentration.

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