

**A Homeowner Dilemma:
Move or Improve?**



What do you do when your family outgrows your house, or when the quirks of the place you once found charming aren't so charming anymore?

Is it smarter to move or improve? The answer is, it depends. And this is a question only you will be able to answer. Here are a few things to think about when considering your options.

- How well are homes selling in your area? Is it a buyers or seller's market?
- What improvements will you need to do to sell your home and what will the costs associated with this be?
- Are the homes you would be interested in moving to within your price range? Is there ample inventory available?
- As a general rule, improving costs less than trading up. But it depends on what kind of improvements you're doing.
- Consider the resale value of your remodeling projects for when you do go to sell whether now or in the future. Of course, don't discount the enjoyment you will get from your remodel.
- Beyond financial considerations think about the neighborhood and where you want to be. Consider the school district, the amount of traffic on your street, the size and layout of your yard, your commute time, and access to businesses you frequent. All of these play a huge factor in your quality of life.

If you love where you are, improving makes sense. But if a different location would be an improvement in its own right, then trading up could be the way to go.



Russ Glickman, founder of Glickman Design Build, is a Master Certified Remodeler and Certified Aging in Place Specialist. The award-winning Glickman Design Build team has completed thousands of general remodeling and accessible design projects in the Metro DC area and is passionate about the work they do. Their work has been featured in a variety of publications.

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Home LifeStyle



JOHN COLE PHOTO

Reorganizing a kitchen before the holiday season begins helps make a home guest-ready, says Dana Kaminsky with Glickman Design Build



PHOTO ANGIE SECKINGER

Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda believes that stocking a room with books and magazines makes overnight visitors feel at home.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Clean, crisp sheets and soft, plush towels make guests feel special, advises Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design.

Preparing a Home for the Holidays

Suggestions for getting your house guest-ready.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

With only two weeks until Thanksgiving and the start of the holiday season, it might be time to take stock of your home's guest-readiness. Local designers explain how to reduce stress and make guests feel at home this holiday season.

"Walk into your home as if you are a guest in your own home," said Dana Kaminsky with Glickman Design Build in Potomac. "Look at the entryway. Your front door should have a festive feel."

A new doormat and large urns filled with evergreen foliage that will last until the end of winter are two accessories that Kaminsky suggests to help ring in the season.

Reorganizing and decluttering a home's interior can decrease stress during holiday hosting and entertaining. The first place to start, suggests Kaminsky is a foyer closet. "This is a great time to donate any winter clothing that your family

doesn't use anymore," she said. "This will make way for guests' coats so you don't have to throw them over furniture and take up valuable seating real estate."

This is also the time to declutter one of the most often-used rooms during the holidays: the kitchen. "Go through your pantry so you can have an accurate inventory when getting ready to prepare holiday meals," she said. "Also get rid of any unnecessary products that are not useful anymore."

This process, says Kaminsky, makes room for needed storage and eliminates the unnecessary use of counter space.

Simple and low-cost ways to brighten a kitchen include purchasing new hand towels and fragrant, sink-side, hand soaps and lotions in elegant dispensers. "William Sonoma has a clean line of fragrances, as well as cleaning supplies and candles that will for sure make you and your guests happy," said Kaminsky. "Pink grapefruit is always a perfect year-round standby."

When it comes to a guest bedroom, Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda believes that stocking a room with books and magazines makes overnight visitors feel at home. She also makes sure the room has a tray of bottled water and

Must-Haves for an Inviting Guest Room

Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design in Bethesda, Md., offers tips:

- Save sample creams and lotions and display them in an attractive container for guests to try.
- Make Internet passwords available and visible so guests have easy access while visiting.
- Consider placing a sound machine in the guest room, particularly if you have an active household, so guests may choose the background noise.
- Provide magazines that may interest your guests.
- Make sure there are enough hangers, preferably "pretty hangers," in the closet for your guests.
- Be sure to place a water carafe (or bottled water) and a glass in the guest room.
- Clean, crisp sheets and soft, plush towels make guests feel special.

cups. "Guests welcome the chance to catch up on reading," she said.

Plenty of bedding and both feather and hypoallergenic pillows, and extra universal chargers are guest room essentials. "We all know the feeling of forgetting this key technology tool," said Meyer.

Finally, Meyer believes in making the room festive by adding green holiday wreaths in the windows, and comfortably by leaving luxurious terrycloth robes. "Nothing says comfort like a plush robe to snuggle in after a long day of travel."

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