

INTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Making Your Home The Envy Of The Neighborhood

(NAPSA)—Real estate agents say that location is most important when selling a home, but curb appeal can help homeowners get top dollar when it's time to sell. The more comforting and soothing the home is, the more people will be interested.

Whether or not you are planning on selling, it's a good idea to make home improvements that your family can enjoy and that will make your home more marketable, later on.

There are several exterior home improvement projects that will not only dramatically increase the beauty and value of a home, but make it more comfortable, too.

Building curb appeal is much more than simple cosmetic changes such as repainting or adding shutters. There are many home improvement projects that will give your home and landscape the "facelift" it needs to make it more irresistible to potential buyers.

Here are a few home improvement projects that can help make a home more valuable. (A beginning remodeler may be able to complete some of these projects, but if time or confidence is a factor, hire a reputable contractor.):

- Build a deck or patio. Wood decks can be built at ground level or high off the ground, depending upon the grade of the lot. If brick is more your style, a wide variety of colors and shapes are available to create one-of-a-kind patios or walkways.

- Re-side your home. When a fresh coat of paint cannot hide warped or rotted siding, new siding may be the best option. With new Solid Core Siding available, your home will have more than just a great look. Solid Core Siding has a



Many homeowners are taking on a few exterior home improvement projects to increase the value of their homes.

solid, rigid insulation backing to increase energy efficiency, impact resistance and noise reduction. It goes on straight, with a profile that is comparable to wood, and it is virtually maintenance-free. Siding is available in a variety of colors that will complement most homes.

- Add landscaping. Try extending a mulched area around the house and trim it with edging, a short fence, railroad ties or stones. If your spacious yard looks barren, add an island with trees, shrubs and flowers. If your yard is hilly, take advantage of the natural slope of the land by adding a garden that has a step effect—providing many landings to use for planting. The added color and texture makes a home look more vibrant.

- Pave your driveway. Asphalt and cement are very attractive alternatives to gravel. Both are designed for high traffic wear and tear, and with proper care can add beauty and added value to a home for years to come.

Interested in learning more ways to improve the value and beauty of your home? Call Crane Performance Siding at 1-800-366-8472 or visit www.vinyl-siding.com to receive a free brochure on Solid Core Siding.