

8 *Fast & Easy* Ways to Create Curb Appeal for your Home

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- 1.) **Check to see that the path to your front door is obvious and visible.** Dark alleys of overgrown shrubs that obscure a walkway don't encourage visitors. Some large shrubs can't be cut back without ruining their appearance and may need to be removed. Others may benefit from just a bit of aesthetic trimming. Also, look at your house at night and see if the path to the front door has enough lighting for someone to navigate it safely without tripping.
- 2.) **Make sure the front path has an even surface** and that it's free of loose objects. Small rocks or gravel, nuts or acorns from nearby trees, twigs and leaves can all pile up and cause people to slip. Keep the path well-swept and power-wash it once a year if algae builds up. Cracked or heaved paving may need to be replaced with a newer surface that can update the look at the same time.
- 3.) **Have an attractive and well-maintained front door:** Because the front door gives an impression of how well-kept the entire home is, be sure that yours is in good condition and up to date. It's a relatively small expense to purchase a new door if yours is weatherworn or very out of style. Painting it a new contrasting color is also inexpensive and can add visual punch.
- 4.) **Container plantings:** Summer annuals and perennial flowers can brighten up the front of your home. Pots that are properly selected for color, shape, and scale (not too small) can add a lot of interest at your door. Be sure to keep them watered and fertilized, and remove dead flowers and plants as needed.
- 5.) **Consider updating your front yard accessories** such as house numbers, lighting fixtures, mailbox, or even garage doors. Again, these are relatively inexpensive upgrades, except perhaps for the garage doors, and they can give a new style to your home and update its look.
- 6.) **Give your lawn a makeover:** A little extra care can go a long way toward making the front yard's grass appealing. You can keep your lawn greener longer with less fertilizer if you use a mulching mower that recycles the clippings. Always use organic fertilizer, it lasts longer and doesn't leach out. And, a crisp edge on the lawn will do wonders for its appearance.
- 7.) **Take care of your plantings:** Untidy hedges and borders will detract from your home's curb appeal. Look at your yard objectively. If you think that certain plants are looking straggly or in poor health, or they've outgrown their spots, then prune them or remove them. Weeding and deadheading (removing spent flowers) can also create great improvements in appearance.
- 8.) **Add a visual accent that is unique to your home** and that shows off your good taste: it could be a stunning ceramic pot with a beautiful glaze, a piece of garden art in a visual line of sight, a nice outdoor bench on which to enjoy the morning sun, an intricate piece of driftwood, a charming birdbath, or some other object that you will enjoy seeing every day!



If you need some help with your curb appeal project, remember that a landscape designer has an objective and professional eye and can assist you with a consultation to give you some new ideas and insights!