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Tips to update your home

Thinking of moving? Even if you aren't, keeping your home updated increases your enjoyment and also builds value for when you do sell. There are many ways to make a significant impact without spending all your savings, relatively inexpensive additions that can increase your home's value.

Outside, it is now possible to enjoy the look of custom exterior stonework with simulated stone. Lightweight and available in a wide range of colours and patterns, you can choose from slate, fieldstone or natural rock for a fraction of the cost. If your exterior doors or screen doors are tired or dated, replacing them and even adding sidelights will improve your entryway.

In the summer, new landscaping and the addition of window boxes full of colourful flowers will boost your spirits and add curb appeal, drawing the eye of neighbours who will remember these little touches when your home goes up for sale, perhaps referring friends or associates.

Inside, suggestions include replacing draperies with shutters, available in wood or vinyl. Well valued by home buyers, shutters are easy to clean and provide an uncluttered look that matches any décor. Tired kitchen cabinets will benefit from a coat of paint and new cabinet handles. A colourful area rug can be placed over wall-to-wall carpeting. Or re-arrange your furniture into a new configuration!

Changing lighting is also an option. Adding wall sconces can bring new focus to a feature wall in your home. Under-the-cupboard lighting makes every task in the kitchen brighter. Or treat yourself to a new chandelier for your dining room, adding sparkle and interest - remember, it's possible to exclude such items at time of sale.

Do you have a light fixture that is difficult to reach? There are now lighting pulley systems available, designed to lower and raise light fixtures located in difficult to reach areas, such as over a staircase. This type of change increases the safety of home maintenance, and is greatly valued by home buyers. Another valuable addition for homes with a central vacuuming system is a floor-level vent, allowing debris to be swept directly into the system where it is sucked away.

Real estate agents Phil Moore and Doris Gee of Re/Max, active in the Vancouver market, recognize the value that these types of renovations provide. "As homeowners age, there will be growing demand for updates that make cleaning and renovating easier," says Doris.

Not Intended To Solicit Buyers/sellers Currently Under Contract.
*Based on MLS sales in Burnaby from 1990-2005.



Featured Homes for Sale



7492 HAWTHORNE TE



903 9232 UNIVERSITY CR



6958 NELSON AV



4912 PIONEER AV



7608 14TH AV



8017 10TH AV



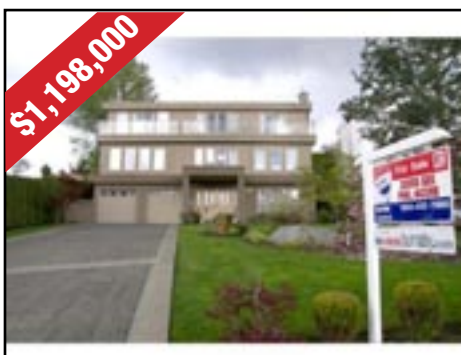
6807 LINDEN AV



8206 14TH AV



5387 RUGBY ST



9188 BRIAR RD



4888 WATLING ST



6656 DEER LAKE DR

To view interior photos of these homes visit our website



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