



CLUB NEWS

THE VOICE OF HOMESERVICE CLUB

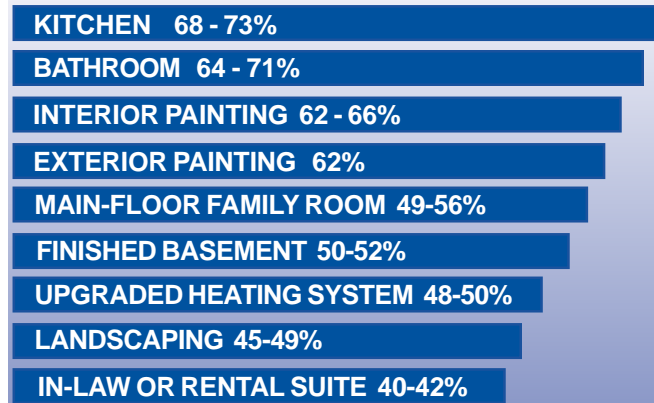
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MAY HOME CHECKLIST

- ✓ Make a list of items which need servicing and start booking appointments this month. Chimney, furnace, air-conditioners, appliances and gas-powered garden tools should be on your maintenance checklist this spring.
- ✓ Take a walk around your home this month, noting any signs of winter damage such as peeling paint, cracked putty, damaged flashing around chimney and vents, and leaking or sagging eavestroughs.
- ✓ Clear leaves and debris from window wells. Make sure that there is a good layer of gravel on the bottom for drainage.
- ✓ Check vents, chimneys and other nooks and crannies for animal nests.
- ✓ Have chimney cleaned and inspect flues and flashing.

IT'S RENO TIME!

RENOVATION PAYBACKS



Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

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Sleek designs dominate BATHROOMS in 2002

Spring is a time for renewal and, as such, it is also a time of year when Canadians re-evaluate the look of each room in the home – particularly the bathroom, a renovation favourite. And this year, industry experts expect that more Canadians will be spending their disposable income on home renovation, incorporating the latest trends toward sleek, European styling as they turn the bathroom into an attractive and functional place for rejuvenation.

Just as fashion has seasonal trends, so does bathroom décor. Delta Faucet Canada and Jacqueline Glass, interior decorator, outline the key bathroom design trends for spring 2002:

Crisp, clean colours

Inspired by the freshness of spring, all colours this season should be vibrant, warm and crisp. Whites and variations of

(Continued on Page 3)

COMMON RENO Mistakes

Over-improving - Aim for the middle range of the type of housing in your neighbourhood.

Compromising on quality - Use a Homeservice Club professional renovator and the best materials you can afford.

Being too original - Use neutral fixtures and materials and express your individual style in furniture and accessories.



European faucets best complement the trend to European styling in today's bathrooms.

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SECURITY starts at home

Most burglars will not attempt to defeat an alarm system. The "reward" is just not worth the risk. With many unalarmed homes in the neighbourhood, there are easier targets just down the street.

Here are some helpful hints on how to keep your home secure.

■ Always arm your security system when you go to sleep and when you go out. Break-ins can happen even on a short trip to the store or while you are in the backyard gardening.

■ Always lock accessible ground-floor and basement

windows. Install escape-ready window bars in your basement.

■ Make sure that your second-floor windows and doors are free from any overhanging branches or trellises. Ladders and tools should always be put away when not in use. Second-floor break-ins are occurring more often.

■ Install exterior lighting where needed, such as at all entrances, backyards and driveways.

■ Keep vacation and travel plans confidential.

If you ever return home and it appears to be broken into, **do not** go in. Go to a neighbour's house, the nearest pay phone or go down the street and use your cellular phone to call the police.



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SPRING is RENOVATION season - Call for your FREE estimate today!

TRENDS in bathrooms

(Continued from Page 1)

white, such as ivory, are a popular option and are often showcased together in one room. Green is another key colour for spring, the ideal complement to warm, white tones.

In-spa-ration

Bathrooms are still very hotel and spa-inspired, and unique towels add a sense of luxury to the average bathroom. Spring 2002 sees the debut of unusual textures in towels, including linen, velour and velvet, guaranteed to add an extravagant touch to any bathroom.

In addition, to complement the hotel-inspired theme, bathrooms are now adorned with a variety of different trays that are used for everything from a place to store pedicure essentials, to a tray that lies across the bathtub to keep items accessible while bathing.

Unique options

Two interesting new materials that are now appearing in bathrooms are cork and banana leaves. Cork is one of the newest trends for flooring, because it can resemble a hardwood floor. The benefit of cork is that it's a durable, softer surface. Banana leaves are used as décor in the room, braided and used as a stylish option in a variety of furnishings, such as chairs and shelves. - News Canada

The best lawns start with aeration

Annual aeration should be part of a healthy lawn-maintenance routine, say lawn-care professionals.

Aeration helps control thatch, a layer of organic matter that grows on the soil at the base of green growth. Left unchecked, thatch can slow water penetration, reduce drought tolerance and interfere with fertilization and pest control.

Aerating involves the removal of small plugs or cores of the thatch and soil, to allow water, oxygen and nutrients to penetrate the soil and reach the roots.

Not sure if your lawn needs aeration? Try this simple test: push a screwdriver into the soil. If it does not insert easily, the soil is compacted and should be aerated.

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TIME FOR A NEW ROOF? Homeservice Club can help!

By Nathalie Houde, Landscape Architect, Botanix

Of all the things that inspire us when we're planning our gardens, the colours of the flowers and leaves often top the list. The key to a magnificent garden lies in the choice of colours and the juxtaposition of shades. Choose a colour scheme with one main colour and two or three complementary colours from the same palette.

The warm colours (yellow, orange and red) produce a joyous feeling. Their invigorating effect makes them perfect to place near the entryway, to make the whole garden more inviting. The cool colours (blue, purple and pink) are soothing, reassuring, soft and romantic. These colours add depth to relaxing corners and water gardens. Shrub foliage, a constant colour throughout the whole summer, should also be considered. In darker corners, make use of pale colours to add light.

Colours and seasons: blissful harmony!

Why not play colours and seasons off against each other?



If the lilac crowns your garden with pale purple in spring, choose red and pink roses for summer and bring in fall with the yellows and oranges of ornamental grasses.

Natural gardening

Natural gardening no longer means using no products whatsoever and allowing plant diseases and pests to destroy your garden. What it means today is learning about gardening methods and using green-thumb tricks and sound advice to reduce product use to a minimum.

Here is some advice that will help you on your way to natural gardening:

- Good soil preparation
- Regular, manual weeding
- Regular, deep watering
- Inspecting your plants regularly
- Identifying the cause of any damage

(disease, insects, mold, etc.)

- Buying healthy, disease-resistant plants
 - Using mulch
 - Consulting with a specialist to help you decide which products to use.
- (News Canada)

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