

Home Upgrades That Can Pay Off at Resale

Big-ticket lessons—and bold, budget-friendly ideas—to boost your home’s value and add personality.

Thinking about remodeling? Before you swing a hammer or swipe that credit card, you may want to hear what the pros are saying right now about what truly pays off. In this episode of [Real Estate Today](#), find out the home upgrades that can deliver at resale—and the ones that may surprise you. From high-return exterior improvements to smart interior renovations, learn what buyers notice and what they may even pay more for—and where homeowners tend to overspend.

You’ll hear from:

- Kristen Jordan, associate broker at the Corcoran Real Estate and alum of Bravo’s “Million Dollar Listing New York”
- Gray Benko and Chelcie Eastman, hosts of the Magnolia Network show, “Anything But Grey”
- Jennifer Bien, DAHLIN Architecture
- Scott Wharton, HouseMaster Home Inspections

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10 Top Remodeling Projects to Prioritize

According to the [2025 Remodeling Impact Report](#), conducted by the National Association of REALTORS® and the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, the following home projects offer some of the highest estimated cost recovery at resale:

- 1. New steel front door: 100% (estimated return based on upfront cost)**
- 2. Closet renovation: 83%**
- 3. New fiberglass front door: 80%**
- 4. New vinyl windows: 74%**

- 5. New wood windows: 71%**
- 6. Basement conversion to living area: 71%**
- 7. Attic conversion to living area: 67%**
- 8. Complete kitchen renovation: 60%**
- 9. Minor kitchen upgrade: 60%**
- 10. Bathroom addition: 56%**