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First impressions are important. If you don't win people over from the start you spend the rest of your time trying to over compensate. This relates to your home as much as to you personally. If the outside of your home reveals one thing - like unattractive, shabby and dirty - then the interior will have to play catch up proving your home is actually attractive, polished and clean.

So just how do you go about making the right impression to make sure the outside accurately reflects the inside? Here are three ways to make sure your property makes a good impression.

The front door

To claim an old, dirty, grubby and decrepit door is unattractive is an understatement; if your front door isn't worth a knock nobody will want to step through into your home. Update your unfashionable door with a new one made from a solid hardwood like oak. Match it to the style and period of your property and, if you need to, paint it in a bold, eye-catching colour like post-box red, navy blue or sea green.

The windows

The eyes are the windows to the soul so perhaps your windows are the, err, windows to your home's soul. Clean, secure and contemporary windows aren't just more attractive; they also let more light in but stop heat escaping and cold air entering. Double-glazed windows in line with your property's design, time period and style, will prove you are clean, tidy and enjoy looking out as much as you like to look in. You can also make a stylistic statement with glazing; from floor-to-ceiling windows to cute portholes you can add a lot of character to your property.

The walls

A large percentage of the UK's population lives in urban locations. Fumes from vehicles and industry leave a film of dirt over your home turning it a dirty, ugly grey shade. You don't have to paint over this. In fact, that's not exactly an most appropriate solution at all; washing the muck off using high-powered water is a more superior alternative. This is especially true if your home is not painted and the original brick or woodwork remains exposed. A clean, bright exterior will automatically make your home more attractive and welcoming.

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Leslie Jones - About Author:
Brian Duffy is a home renovator and decorator. He recommends Todd Doors for quality a prefinished external doors.

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