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Following are some of our favorite low-cost home improvement projects that you can take on this summer.

1. Protect your gutters with gutter guards

Cleaning out your gutters certainly isn't your favorite thing to do, but it's something that's absolutely necessary unless you install gutter guards. Guards and screens help to keep yard debris and leaves out of your gutters, meaning that you'll never have to stand on a ladder cleaning out your gutters again. With a small investment, you can install gutter guards and say goodbye to the icky chore of cleaning your gutters.

2. Caulk and increase your home's energy efficiency

All you have to buy for this project is some caulk and masking tape. The best places to caulk for energy efficiency is where two types of building materials meet—for example, where your window meets your wall. Make sure that you caulk on a dry day. All you have to do is run your masking tape on both sides of the crevice that you plan to caulk. Ensure that the tape is straight. Next, apply the caulk into the crevice. Use your finger to tool the caulk as needed. Once you're done, simply remove the tape.

3. Spice up your kitchen

For just a few hundred dollars, you can breathe new life into your kitchen. Replace the faucet set, update old lighting fixtures with ones that are energy-efficient, and replace the hardware on all your cabinets. It doesn't seem like a lot, but it will make a big difference when it comes to the look and feel of your kitchen.

4. Give your bathroom something to smile about

You can give your bathroom a face-lift inexpensively simply by replacing the toilet seat and the sink pedestal. The good news is that you don't even need to pay someone to install these things, as they're quite simple to put in. Another inexpensive way to vamp up your bathroom is by replacing the flooring with easy-to-apply vinyl tiles.

5. Make your appliances look brand-new

The truth is that you don't have to buy brand-new kitchen appliances in order for those appliances to look brand-new. All you have to do is order new face panels or doors for them. This can make a huge difference in your kitchen, particularly if your appliances don't currently match. And in some cases, you may not even have to purchase a new face panel. For example, many dishwashers have panels that are black on one side and white on the other, so all you'd have to do is unscrew the panel and flip it around in order to give it a whole new look.

These are just five of our favorite home improvement projects that you can take on during the summer—and that won't cost you your life's savings. What other inexpensive home improvements do you think of that you'd like to do this summer?

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