



Upgrade the curb appeal of your home with a new entry system. It can add value to your home without costing a lot of money, and update the home's exterior look without drastic construction.

Add Value With A New Entryway

Are you looking to add value to your home without spending a lot of money?

Do you want to update the exterior look of your home without drastic construction or remodeling?

Then consider upgrading the curb appeal of your home with a new entry system.

"It's one of the best investments you can make right now," says Nancy Nagy, president of Chicago's Lakeshore Funding and an experienced real estate broker.

"Investing in housing continues to remain steady while other investments have been more uncertain. We're seeing many homeowners who are refinancing their mortgages and using the funds to update the exteriors of their homes."

Recent research from Therma-Tru, a door manufacturer, and NFO Worldwide found that an enhanced entryway can add as much as \$24,000 to a home's perceived value, approximately five times the cost of the entry system.

There are few other upgrades to a home that deliver this kind of return on investment.

In addition, 60 percent of individuals who replaced their front entry doors did it to improve the appearance of their homes.

Design Options

New fiberglass materials and design options are making the rich look of a wood door more affordable and easier to maintain.

Where many doors used to be wood or steel, today's best choice for style and performance is fiberglass.

Fiberglass won't rot, warp or peel like wood; requires minimal maintenance; provides thermal protection; and offers unlimited possibilities for styles and finish

options.

Before you select a door, you need to determine what design possibilities are locked behind the walls of your home. First, check the opening of your doorway to see what your home can accommodate structurally.

Next, measure the height and width of the frame to determine your current opening.

Most single doors are 3 feet wide and 6 feet 8 inches tall.

But some of today's most popular doors are now 3 feet 6 inches wide and 8 feet tall, so you may need to enlarge your door opening.

Upgrading

You can upgrade an existing door by adding sidelites with decorative glass, which provides curb appeal and new light for the home's interior.

You may need to work with a contractor to remove some of the drywall and create a new larger opening, which will need to be 3/4 inch wider and 1/2 inch taller than the size of your door and sidelite unit.

You can generally find the specific rough opening requirements in the manufacturer's catalog or Web site.

Replacing

If you have a single door, you can replace it with a door like Therma-Tru's new Classic Craft® Mahogany Collection fiberglass door with a glass doordlite (see photo at right).

If you already have plain double doors, you can replace them with double doors with glass doordlites.

Or, you can install an extra-wide single door (3'6") with decorative sidelites and fill in the rough opening.

You can create a distinctive,

grand look by expanding to double doors with glass sidelites and a transom, the glass piece above a door.

You'll need to work with a contractor or architect to determine whether you need to install a steel lintel above the door for extra support.

This requires a little more work, but the final results will be well worth it when they give your home a completely new look.

High Performance System

Lastly, remember that an entryway is a system of components, not just the door slab.

If you don't install quality hinges, sill plates, weatherstripping and locking systems, the door won't perform like you expect.

Therma-Tru produces a door system designed to work together with high-quality, durable components — from door hardware to beautiful glass sidelites and transoms — designed for its door systems.

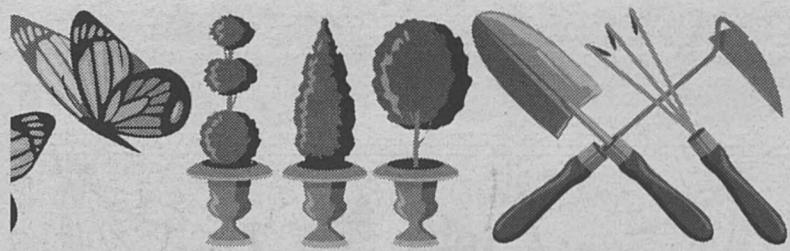
The company also provides a door system warranty to ensure the performance of its system.

Therma-Tru offers homeowners design ideas, installation tips and a complete door selection on its Web site at www.thermatru.com.

The site features an interactive Door Designer where users can match door styles with glass sidelites, doordlites, transoms, and stain and paint colors to create the look they want.

Therma-Tru offers complete entry and patio door systems through a national network of building material distributors and lumberyards.

For more information on Therma-Tru Doors, visit its Web site or call (800) 537-8827.



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