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Sweet Home  
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# Reinvent Your Space

To bring in the money, you need to spend some. Consider these renovation tips before you go advertising your home on the sale list

Whether you are looking to sell a house you have bought solely for the purpose of selling or one that you live in, long-winded negotiations with a broker or a prospective buyer will probably give you a vein-popping headache.

Think of all the times you have tried to get a good bargain. The time when you spotted hair in your tomato soup, stray threads on that scarf or a slightly green tomato? You thought you lost out on value for money. Buying a house is a big step for most people and buyers will probably inspect every square foot of the house before making their best offer. Not surprisingly, there are a few tricks to the trade that can help you seal the deal. It calls for renovating the innovative way.

## A fresh coat of paint

Freshly painted walls are grossly underappreciated but it lifts the mood of the house, makes it bright and shiny like a car after a wash. It is also a great way to get into the nook and crannies of your home and get it well dusted. A thorough check of walls will also show up patches that need to be evened out, filling in (think holes caused by nails) or even plastering and coating against damp. Avoid bold and bright colours as they tend to make a house appear small and do not

suit most people's tastes. Light pastels can make a room appear bigger and more airy thus increasing its face value. A simple search on the web can give you references of experts on how to use patterns and colours to create an impression of space. For example, bold colours should be restricted to smaller areas to highlight a niche in the wall. Disproportionate rooms can be made to appear squarish by painting the shorter sides a dark shade.

## De-clutter to make space

If you have stuff lying around your house, it not only makes the house look messy, it can also mean that there isn't enough storage space.

Minimal interior decoration has universal appeal. Taking inspiration from the culture that does it best – the hugely popular KonMari method by a Japanese cleaning consultant also talks about the need to prioritize your possessions and organize better.



## Pest control exercise

A line of ants in the kitchen or termites on the wall is a big no-no. A basic pest control costs less than a dinner out with the family but can add more value than a discounted family burger meal to your pocket.