

Now you can *do-it-yourself...*



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INSTANT IMPACT

What you will need...

- Camera
- Scrapbook
- Journal

Important information...

Always:

- When using outdoor power equipment, wear appropriate clothing – long pants and sturdy shoes (never sandals or open-toed shoes).
- Wear safety glasses and work gloves when working in your yard.
- If you pressure wash the exterior of your home, refer to the operator's manual to make sure you are operating your pressure washer correctly and safely.

Steps...

1 Determine curb appeal of your home

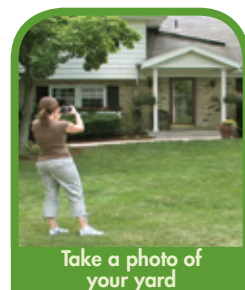
What is your home's most attractive feature? Look for easy ways to make your home more inviting, like adding foundation plantings that soften the approach to the front door. To soften angles, consider a curved walkway and a casual, perennial flowerbed. A front door in a bold color that contrast with the house can also add curb appeal.



Determine curb appeal

2 Take a photo of your home

Take pictures of your front and backyard. Enlarge these photos to help you determine what you like about your yard and what you want to change. Take new photos every season to see how your home changes throughout the year and to track your progress as you make changes.



Take a photo of your yard

3 Screen potential outdoor eyesores

Look for any potential eyesores, such as the air conditioning unit, with appropriate bushes and plants. Place the plants far enough away so they don't block airflow. If your neighbor's house seems a little too close, but a fence is not the right answer, plant a row of arborvitae. If you prefer a softer look, use a variety of bushes and plants to create a visual screen.



Look for outdoor eyesores

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Steps (con't.)

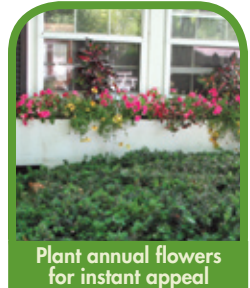
4 Keep your lawn mowed and trimmed properly

A well-kept lawn is the first thing people see when they look at your home. Mow correctly – never cut more than one-third the length of the grass at one time. If you are establishing your first lawn, sod will definitely give you instant impact.



5 Plant annual flowers for instant impact

Annual flowers are a colorful and economical choice for instant impact. Choose plants that have both blooms and buds in colors that will look good with the color of your home. Flowerboxes attached beneath front windows add a feeling of warmth and hominess to many home styles. Add fresh mulch to your flowerbeds and beneath trees each spring to provide a “just landscaped” look.



6 Clean the outside of your home with a pressure washer

A pressure washer provides much more washing power than a water hose alone. You can use it for dozens of chores, such as cleaning your home’s siding, patio, deck, driveway, outdoor furniture, play set and much more.

CAUTION: Use extreme care while operating a pressure washer. Always remember to wear eye protection, long pants and closed-toed shoes. Never aim the nozzle at people or animals. Always read and follow the instructions in the owners manual before operating any outdoor power equipment.



7 Scrapbook your progress

Include notations and photos of the changes you have made. Add the names of bushes, trees and plants you have added as well as sketches of what you would like to do next. It will become your personal record of everything you have done to create the yard you really want to have.

