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**WITH THE RENTALS GUIDE INSIDE**



Jill Sell

**T**his month you made resolutions to lose weight, stop biting your fingernails and do something with your hair. Why not give your house a makeover

as well? If you are planning to sell your house soon, these makeover ideas will add curb appeal and interior interest for buyers.

If you just bought a house and/or are planning to stay awhile, why not improve your home, one project at a time?

Start with the garage door. Legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright hated garages and tried to just add only carports when he could. But that was then, this is the time of at least two cars, athletic and gardening equipment and kids' ride-on toys. A garage door is a huge part of a home's exterior and it better be in good shape and look good.

Clopay Building Products recently identified garage door trends for 2015. The first is new reflective paint technol-

## Start your home makeover with one project at a time and add value to your house

ogy, which allows steel garage doors to be painted a dramatic, glossy black. Look for more black garage doors than ever before. Also, details make the door, and pretty carriage house doors account for one out of every five residential garage doors now sold in North America.

Beautiful, natural wood doors eliminate painting, but still need upkeep. Some homeowners opt for faux wood doors that make maintenance a breeze.

Style changes are also very apparent. Homeowners in all parts of the country are looking to blur the lines between interior and exterior spaces. Glass and aluminum doors can be a solution. When closed,



The Canyon Ridge Collection from Clopay Building Products is a faux wood line of doors that are molded from natural boards to replicate grain patterns. | Photo Credit: Clopay

these doors look like works of art. Also, the contemporary look continues to come on strong.

Clopay research shows most people only buy one garage door in their lifetime. But doors are one of the least expense upgrades and can recoup up to an 83.7 percent return at resale.

Garage doors aren't the only place to find the color black, however. Black paint on walls in living rooms and dining rooms looks luxurious and sophisticated. Add color to the room by including bright throw rugs, artwork on walls and funky

*continued on page 2*



A great garage door can add instant curb appeal to any home. These before and after photos feature a door from Clopay's Reserve Collection, a wood carriage house door. | Photo Credit: Clopay Building Products

### Inside RENTALS:

- Five things you should know about renting





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*continued from previous page*

or formal chandeliers. Yes, you have to be brave to do this, but it's an amazing transformation.

Who said utility rooms have to be utilitarian and boring? Add shelving for detergents, but also fanciful figurines, abstract sculptures or vintage wooden boxes or baskets that just make you smile. Lay a beautiful old wooden door, a live-edge slab of wood or a piece of countertop (find a second or an older one in a re-sale shop to save money) over a washer and dryer placed side by side. (This works, obviously, for front-loading appliances only.) It makes an instant and attractive surface for folding clothes or as a popup desk.

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Lighting is also important in utility rooms. Boring overheads can be supplemented with sconces, chandeliers and even cozy table lamps if there is no danger of water contact.

Convenient beverage centers can be added even to smaller homes. Yes, you will often find this mini entertainment center, usually with a small sink, in kitchens. But they are also popping up in bedrooms, wine cellars, master suite retreats



MTI Counter-Sinks gracefully connect the sink and countertop in a minimal, seamless look. | Photo Credit: MTI Baths



An attractive garage door, including this Craftsman style form Clopay, adds value and appeal to a home. | Photo Credit: Clopay Building Products

and even foyers, stairway landings and hallways.

MTI Bath's Boutique Collection features a customized, integrated Counter-Sink that fits well with a beverage center island, peninsula or other small space. The width, length, deck height, and bowl placement can be made to fit any specifications. Made from natural ground materials and high quality resins, the Counter-Sinks are solid, non-porous and easy to care for.

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