

This Old House

what a deal!

45

vintage-look buys for your home

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SAME HOUSE, MORE SPACE
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JUNE 2011
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Handsome house numbers

Detailed digits offer an inexpensive way to boost your home's curb appeal

By DANIELLE BLUNDELL + Photographs by ALISON ROSA

There are simple house numbers that quietly go about their job displaying your address, and then there are digits so striking they achieve the level of functional art, inviting the gaze of passersby. Just about any set can add a hit of texture or color to your home's entrance, but carefully chosen ones also reinforce its architectural style and make a welcoming first impression.

Most house numbers come in all-weather finishes sealed with lacquer or glaze, but when it comes to choosing a style, the options are almost endless. Materials run the gamut from shiny brass and satin stainless to white clay and terra-cotta tile, with numbers (and, often, letters) rendered in a wide range of typefaces, both traditional and modern. Here we've zeroed in on 21 options that span three general time periods, so whatever era your home dates to, we're sure to have your number.



← 19TH CENTURY

hammered look

ATLAS HOMEWARES
Size: Up to 3½"W × 5½"H
Made of: Zinc with a lacquered copper finish
Cost: \$14 each;
atlashomewares.com



MID-CENTURY →

Eames era

HEATH CERAMICS

Size: 4"W × 4"H

Made of: Glazed ceramic

Cost: \$45 each; heathceramics.com



pro advice

TERRY TALKEN, CO-OWNER, SHOP 4 CLASSICS

"Most municipalities require numbers to be at least 4 inches tall so that safety personnel can see them easily from the street, but check local ordinances before mounting new ones."



← PRE-WAR

scroll style

MISSION METALWORKS
Size: Up to 3½"W × 5"H
Made of: Recycled white bronze that will patina
Cost: \$25 each;
shop4classics.com

shopping



Hand-craftsmanship and nature motifs suit bungalows and early-20th-century revival styles. Stream-lined digits are a good match for Prairie and Art Deco architecture.

artful flourishes

ATLAS HOMEWARES
Size: Up to 3¼"W x 4"H
Made of: Cast zinc with a black lacquered finish
Cost: \$10 each;
atlashomewares.com



matte mission

ATLAS HOMEWARES
Size: Up to 3"W x 5½"H
Made of: Cast zinc with a lacquered nickel finish
Cost: \$14 each;
atlashomewares.com



craftsman cattails

ROCHFORD HANDMADE TILE
Size: 4½"W x 6"H
Made of: Hand-glazed white clay
Cost: \$25 each;
housenumbertiles.com



nouveau numerals

PORTEOUS TILES
Size: 3"W x 6"H
Made of: Hand-painted glazed porcelain
Cost: \$22 each;
fairoak.com



deco digits

PORTEOUS TILES
Size: 3"W x 6"H
Made of: Hand-painted glazed porcelain
Cost: \$22 each;
kensingtonarttiles.com

hand-pressed clay

RAVENSTONE TILES
Size: 4"W x 6"H
Made of: Hand-glazed ceramic
Cost: \$30 each (\$23 for accent piece);
ravenstonetiles.com

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MID-CENTURY

Accessorize ranches and more modern homes from the 1950s and 1960s with bold, graphic numerals.

peel and stick

ATLAS HOMEWARES
Size: Up to 4½"W x 4"H
Made of: Brushed stainless steel with easy-mount adhesive backing
Cost: \$21 each;
atlashomewares.com



cleaned-up classic

ATLAS HOMEWARES
Size: Up to 3"W x 6"H
Made of: Cast zinc with a black finish
Cost: \$21 each;
atlashomewares.com



modern markers

HEATH CERAMICS
Size: 3"W x 6"H
Made of: Glazed ceramic
Cost: \$45 each;
heathceramics.com



bar-code script

ECCO BY FUORISERIE
Size: Up to 2½"W x 4"H
Made of: Cast brass with a copper-plated finish
Cost: \$13 each;
comforthouse.com

