

Mid-Shores Home Builders Association Inc.
Celebrating 15 Years! 1998-2013



Home Improvement: *Minor Improvements, Major Impacts*

As we celebrate National Home Remodeling Month, let's explore how you can make minor improvements that provide major impacts on your comfort, personal enjoyment, and resale value. Mid-Shores Home Builders Association provides a searchable directory on professional member contractors at MidShoresHomeBuilders.com.

Let's take a look at these common, but valuable improvements:

Energy & Performance

You can easily improve the indoor comfort of your home with a few simple projects.

- Work with the Mid-Shores Home Builders Association and Focus on Energy to conduct an energy audit of your home. This audit identifies key areas of your home that are the main sources of energy loss and may suggest the solution to that draft you are experiencing.
- Whether in remodeling or new home construction, air sealing and insulation in targeted high-energy loss areas will produce great results (i.e. roof, rim joist in basement, and channels from basement to roof).
- Your mechanical components of your home should be checked annually to ensure proper performance. These annual checks help to increase the longevity and may avoid unexpected breakdowns.
- Upgrading your appliances and mechanical equipment may help the performance of your home and decrease the operating costs.

Interior Finishes

Now is the time to make improvements to your interior finishes and correct those "ugly" spaces that have been bothering you for years.

- Painting is a simple way to freshen up an area or refocus the flow of your home. Be sure to use the right kind of finish for the application. Pay special attention to the manufacturers' recommendations or hire a professional.
- Flooring is a great way to change the look of an entry, bathroom, or upgrade the entire home. There is a wide selection of flooring products on the market today that meets a variety of styles, applications, and price points.
- Updating cabinets and surfaces typically adds tremendous resale value in kitchen and bathroom applications. Adding cabinets to a living room provides opportunities for additional storage and can create an added elegance to the space.
- Faucet, lighting, and door handle replacement is an inexpensive way to change the look and feel of an area.

Exterior Living Spaces

Curb appeal and the look of your home is an expression of you and it showcases the value of your home. Consider these projects to add to your outdoor environment.

- Creating a landscape plan that you can integrate over several years will help establish a balanced yard and add to your curb appeal.
- Having your windows professionally cleaned is a great way to fine tune the appearance of your home.
- Painting or updating your siding is a great way to add value to your home.
- Building an outdoor living area can add tremendous value to your enjoyment and the value of your home.



Choosing the Right Contractor It is essential to choose the right contractor to remodel or improve your home. Hiring a professional contractor means that they have the proper credentials & insurance, background, and knowledge to finish your project professionally. Under no circumstances should a consumer pull a permit from a local government. This puts the sole risk and liability on the consumer. Visit www.midshoreshomebuilders.com/consumers.asp for a [Checklist to Finding and Hiring a Builder or Remodeler](#).