

DIY: Home Projects

THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE you will purchase your own home some day in the future. Like many homeowners, you will want your place to be inviting and comfortable. You may use bright or bold colors, or build unique or functional furniture. You might decorate with artwork or crafts that reflect your personal taste and decor. **DIY**, do it yourself, projects provide affordable and easy options for creating the home of your dreams.



Objective:



Describe DIY home decorating projects.

Key Terms:



crafting
decorative crafts
DIY

fashion crafts
functional crafts
paper crafts

textile crafts

DIY Home Decorating Projects

Have you ever completed a DIY project? If so, you already know how rewarding it can be. If you haven't yet, but would like to, there are plenty of places to go for help. Hundreds of innovative and inspiring ideas for DIY activities can be found on the Internet, in books or magazines. DIY activities basically fall under three headings: Building, crafting, and painting. Before taking on a project in any of these areas, you should research it fully and develop a plan for success. Consider your interests, goals, needs, and abilities when deciding which of the following three categories would fit you best.

BUILDING

Building involves the construction of something by assembling or joining parts or materials. Your skill level should determine the type of work that suits you best. Consider the following guidelines when considering a future project:



FIGURE 1. DIY projects offer something for everyone.

Beginner

Beginner building involves the construction of something by assembling or joining parts or materials. Beginning DIY construction work requires less tools, less experience, and less time to complete. There may be many projects that appeal to you, but you will need to make sure you have the tools, time, and ability to complete them. Some beginner level ideas might involve benches, bookcases, shelves, stools, and small tables.

Advanced

Advanced DIY building may require special equipment or tools, and experience or training with construction or building practices. Examples of advanced DIY construction work might include firepits, pergolas, picnic tables, entertainment centers, and outdoor gardening sheds.

CRAFTING

Crafting is the activity or activity of making articles by hand. Crafting comes in many different forms, from sculptures and metalwork to knitting and printing. Crafting projects can be categorized in the following five ways:

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
TEXTILE	Textile crafts are any type of craft where the work involves fabric, yarn, or surface design.
PAPER	Paper crafts are craft projects created with the use of paper. This includes engraving on other surfaces, such as wood or linoleum. It would also include papier-mache, calligraphy, and papermaking.
DECORATIVE	Decorative crafts include art where the final product haws an element of usefulness. Furniture making, metalwork, stenciling, stained glass, gilding, toy making, basketry and many other arts fall into this category.
FASHION	Fashion crafts include all the elements of dressing the human body: jewelry, hats, belts, purses, and clothing. Fashion crafts can involve both soft and sturdy materials.
FUNCTIONAL	Functional crafts are those that can be used in day-to-day life. For example, decorative pottery could be functional if used daily for dining.

PAINTING

Adding paint to walls, furniture, or decor can have a major impact on the appearance of your home. There are many simple paint projects designed to improve and enhance your home's look and feel. Some of the most popular include the following:

Doors

Putting bright bold, or soft muted colors on doors can totally change the looks of a bedroom, living room, or entryway. If you pick a color that matches the carpet, pillow, or artwork in the room, you will create a coordinated look.

Staircases

Painting steps with colorful patterns or stencils can make a big change with very little effort. Alternating colors will help you achieve a classic look. Starting at the bottom with a dark shade and painting each step a slightly lighter shade of the same color will produce an ombre' effect. You can have lots of fun painting, and if you don't like it you can just repaint it.

Furniture

There are many popular techniques for giving old or worn furniture a new look. Distressing, whitewashing, chalk painting, spray painting, and aging are just a few of the popular DIY painting methods being used. You can find tutorials and guidance easily for these on YouTube, Pinterest, and many other Internet sites.

Walls

Walls can be painted in a variety of different shades and hues. You can put word art, graphics, pictures and photos on them. Stenciling, faux painting, or sponge painting could also be used to create a special effect.

Decor

You can create a very welcoming and personal atmosphere in your home or room with decor. Jars, picture frames, shelves, candle holders, flower pots, and coffee mugs are commonly used in DIY painting. These small items can make a big difference in how your home appears to you and others.



FIGURE 2. Paint provides a quick and inexpensive way to transform your home.



FURTHER EXPLORATION...

ONLINE CONNECTION: Tips for Painting Like a Pro

Read “The Top Ten Ways to Paint Like a Pro,” located on the DIY network website, at <https://www.diynetwork.com/how-to/skills-and-know-how/painting/15-painting-tips-to-paint-like-a-pro>. Share the ten methods featured in article with a classmate or family member. Also, explain the meaning and benefit of boxing your paint.

Accessories

Kitchen cabinets, closets, and dressers can be easily updated with the help of unique knobs and pulls. Spray paint makes these projects easy to complete. Craft paint could also be used to add finishing touches such as stripes, polka dots, flowers, or designs.

Summary:



DIY decorating has changed the way homes are transformed today. Building projects are designed at both beginner and advanced levels. Crafting involves the use of textiles or paper. It can also be decorative, relate to fashion, or include objects in the home used for other purposes, such as dinnerware. Painting impacts a home dramatically by changing colors or designs used on doors, staircases, furniture, walls, decor, and accessories. Resources and guidance for these projects are available in many places, at little or no cost. Completing a DIY home project is fun, affordable, and rewarding.



FIGURE 3. DIY projects turn a house into a home.

Checking Your Knowledge:



1. Describe the two levels for building projects?
2. List three places you could find guidance for your DIY work?
3. Identify the 5 categories found in crafting.
4. Explain how painting a door could give your room a coordinated look.
5. What makes a craft functional?

Expanding Your Knowledge:



Popular painting techniques for furniture and walls include distressing, whitewashing, chalk painting, spray painting, aging, stenciling, faux painting and sponge painting. Do your own research and find out how each of these methods works. Decide which process appeals most to you. Think about your own room, or another room in your home. Choose a DIY paint project you think would have a major impact on that space. Estimate the amount of time and money that would be involved in the work. Describe the impact of the change on the appearance of the room. If you are feeling bold, you may even ask your parents' permission to begin the work.

Web Links:



Building Projects for Kids

<https://www.reallifeathome.com/building-projects-for-kids/>

Beginner Craft Projects

<https://hellogiggles.com/lifestyle/craft-projects-for-beginners-national-craft-month-2019/>

DIY Painting Projects

<https://www.sherwin-williams.com/homeowners/inspiration/project-center#Interior>