



# Basic Home Improvements

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## that Save Money

In many areas of the country, energy and water costs are on the rise, taking a bigger chunk out of our wallets every month. But, there's hope. With a few home improvements, you may be able to save money on your utility bills.

### Water

Double your impact. These tips will not only help you save money on your bill, but you'll be saving water, too.

#### Go low flow.

Bathing and showering comprises **35%** of Canadian household water use.<sup>1</sup> Low flow faucets and showerheads can help you dramatically reduce your water consumption, which can help you save money.<sup>2</sup>

#### Fix leaks.

Leaky faucets and pipes increase your water bill and may require expensive repairs if they're ignored. Every six months, inspect your faucets and pipes for wear and tear. If you notice a leak, fix it right away, and don't forget outdoor faucets!

#### Go tankless.

If it's time to upgrade your water heater, consider going tankless. A tankless water heater may help you save **20%** on your water bill. An added bonus: You'll never run out of hot water again!

### Energy

Canadians use an average of 105 gigajoules of energy per household.<sup>3</sup> While you may have already switched to compact fluorescent light bulbs to save money, these tips will add to the savings by regulating your home's temperature.

#### Rethink your insulation.

Good insulation not only helps regulate the temperature of your home, it can also reduce your heating and cooling costs by as much as **20%**.<sup>2</sup>

#### Manage the temperature automatically.

Wouldn't you love to come home to the perfect temperature? A programmable thermostat helps you save energy and money by scheduling temperature settings for when you're likely to need heat or air conditioning the most, such as when you wake up and when you arrive home from work.

#### Seal up drafts.

Have you ever wondered why your home won't stay warm in the winter or cool in the summer? Check your windows. Drafty windows are not only a nuisance, they can also cause **30-40%** of heating and cooling losses. Apply weather stripping to your windows to patch up leaks and save more money.<sup>2</sup>

Sources: 1. Canadian Geographic  
2. Natural Resources Canada  
3. Statistics Canada, Households and the Environment: Energy Use  
3. Houzz, Renovation Across Canada

# Home Improvements

## that Boost the Value of Your Home

Homeowners remodel their homes for a number of reasons, but one of the most common is to increase resale value prior to listing. Renovations will improve the style and function of your home and may make it more appealing to potential buyers if you're thinking of listing your home.

### Upgrade Your Kitchen

The kitchen is the heart of the home. A kitchen remodel will not only improve your home's functionality, it may also become a key selling point if you decide to sell. The average kitchen remodel costs **\$24,912 (CAD)**, with people undertaking a high-end remodel spending an average of **\$49,495**.<sup>4</sup> However, if you're thinking of listing your home soon and your kitchen is in good shape, you may want to rethink a full remodel. A minor upgrade and a coat of paint may be all you need to freshen up the space.



## Renovation Facts & Figures



### Top 3 Reasons for Renovating<sup>4</sup>

1. Improve the design/look and feel
2. Increase resale value
3. Improve storage and efficiency

### Top 3 Renovation projects<sup>4</sup>

1. Bathroom renovation/addition
2. Kitchen renovation/addition
3. Flooring/paneling/ceiling replacement



### Upgrade Your Bathroom

The bathroom is the place where you get ready to take on the world every day. Show it some love with a makeover. Upgrade your fixtures to reflect your style, or create the spa-like getaway of your dreams. Canadians spent an average of **\$10,127 (CAD)** on their renovation, with people spending an average of **\$21,200** for a high-end remodel.<sup>4</sup>

### Improve Energy Efficiency

Is it time to upgrade your appliances, windows, or other energy-impacting parts of your home? Upgrading your home with energy-efficient features will not only save each month on your utility bill, it may also make the home more attractive to younger or more energy-conscious buyers.

