

the real estate advisor

In this issue:



Minimalist Ideas for Your Home



Benefits of Houseplants



Take 5: Roof Maintenance

Minimalist Ideas for Your Home



Minimalism has been a dominating theme in design and architecture over the past few years. What started as an art movement in the 1960s has become a mainstay for interior designers that creates peaceful, eye-catching spaces with limited furnishings and selective decorative pieces. Minimalist decor is focused on the concept of 'less is more' and this idea places a lot of importance on functionality, tidiness, and organization in the home. Here are a few tips to bring minimalism into your home.

Eliminate the Clutter. There are many things homeowners keep around the house on the off-chance they are needed, but usually they never are. Take control of your space by throwing away any loose papers, magazines, or trinkets that aren't getting any use and do a weekly check to see where clutter is piling up.

Choose Decorations Wisely. It's a natural

inclination to try to fill all the empty space on a wall, but in many cases, this design style can become a bit overwhelming and noisy. Instead, try to find a defining piece of art or decor that can act as a focal point or centerpiece. Then, the empty space surrounding it will accentuate the piece.

Focus on Function. When you're deciding on whether or not to keep something in your space, just ask yourself, "Do I actually use this?" If it's an item that is used daily, it makes sense to keep it, but if you can't remember the last time you used it, it might be better to toss it. If something is used intermittently, you can still clear your space by finding a cabinet or drawer to keep it out of sight.



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Take 5: Roof Maintenance

The roof is one of the most essential features of a home, yet it's commonly overlooked when it comes to regular maintenance. A roof can sustain some wear and tear, but if a homeowner wants to avoid costly repairs, they should conduct frequent checks. Here are five ways to keep your roof in good condition.

1. Check for leaks. To prevent a major roof leak, regularly check for water damage in your attic and on your ceilings. Some telltale signs of roof leaks include moldy smells, liquid stains on the ceiling, or interior wall bulges.

2. Trim those trees. A tree can do a great deal of damage if it falls on a roof, but it's also important to make sure no branches are scratching your shingles. Over an extended period of time, this can damage the protective top layer, so make sure to trim the trees around your house.

3. Check your shingles. One of the most important parts

of roof maintenance is making sure your shingles aren't deteriorating. If you see any shingles that are missing, cracked, or curved, it may be time for some repairs.

4. Clean your gutters. Although it can be one of the most dreaded household chores, cleaning your gutters regularly can help preserve your roof. Gutters filled with debris can prevent water from draining properly and result in liquid seeping under your roof. This can affect the roof's integrity and cause water stains.

5. Hire a pro. If you want to go above and beyond in your roof maintenance and make sure you aren't missing any problem areas, call a professional roofer to complete an inspection.

Benefits of Houseplants

Houseplants are great natural decoration pieces to occupy a corner, window sill, table, or shelf, but they also offer many health benefits that can enhance your physical well-being.

Air quality. In the late 1970s, many buildings were constructed with limited fresh air exchange and 'superinsulation' in an attempt to minimize energy costs. However, occupants began to report various health problems. This phenomenon, known as 'sick building syndrome,' was caused by the lack of fresh air entering the building and emissions of 'various organic compounds' from synthetic insulations. In 1989, NASA conducted a study to counteract 'sick building syndrome' and their results were nothing short of remarkable. They found that certain houseplants can absorb pollutants in the air through their soil and improve air quality dramatically. The study found that plants, such as Chrysanthemums,

peace lilies, English ivy, and ficuses, do a great job combating indoor air pollution.

Decreasing stress. According to a 2015 study conducted by scientists at Chungnam National University, interacting with plants "can reduce physiological and psychological stress." During the study, half the participants completed a task on a computer while the other half repotted a plant. They found that working with plants inspired comfortable feelings and reduced more stress compared to completing the computer task.

Sleep. The 1989 NASA study discovered certain plants have the ability to remove pollutants from the air and this natural process could improve your sleep. We release a lot of carbon dioxide when we are sleeping, but plants like aloe vera or snake plants can absorb that carbon dioxide and replace it with oxygen.