

Better Homes and Gardens®

A Week of
Healthy
Meals
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refreshing ideas

Cool Smoothies, Fast
Meals, Easy Organizing

Renew Any
Room —
30 Quick Tricks

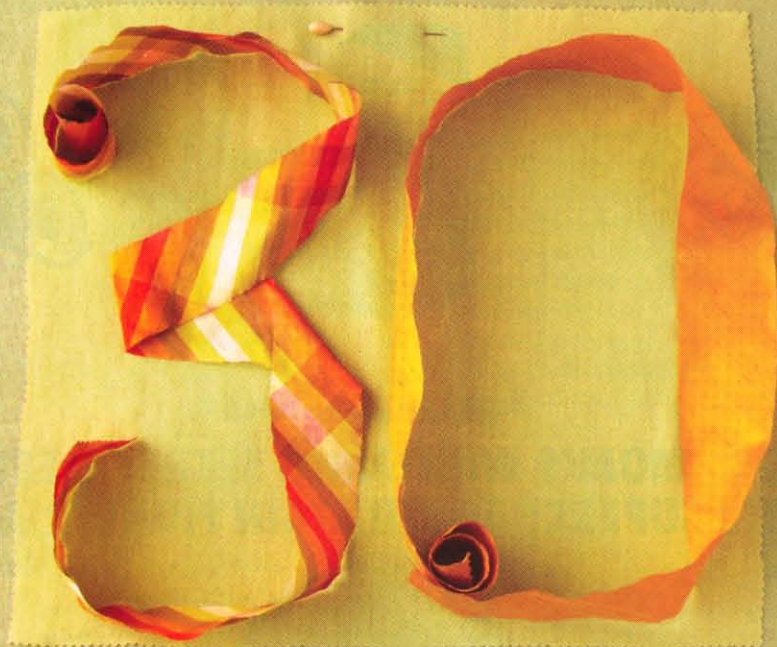
Beautiful,
Low-Water
Containers

Fresh Fruit
Quenchers
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Tacos Reinvented! 4 New Ways to Fix a Favorite





big-impact *(low-budget)* ideas for sprucing up your home

1 Rearrange your furniture. It's free, so if you don't like it, simply move it back. Start with the largest piece—usually oriented toward a focal point such as a window or fireplace—and work your way down. If nothing else, angle a sofa, chair, or bed that's hugging a wall.

2 Check children's and teen stores and catalogs for on-sale rugs, lamps, and shades. Adding one bright, shapely, or not-so-serious something is a fun surprise in a living room or adult bedroom.

3 Just a quart of paint can transform your house. "A warm color on the front door makes a home seem welcoming," says Barbara Corcoran, New York City real estate expert. "Red always makes people smile." Use paint cards showing exterior palettes for inspiration.

by JODY GARLOCK



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24 Check online sites for daily, weekly, or clearance deals. One place to bargain shop: overstock.com. And before you head to a store, see if it has coupons online.

25 Put quirky little things—dominoes, game pieces, origami, matchbooks collected from your favorite restaurants—in a decorative bowl. Now you have a display worth talking about.



28 “Your front door allows you to add personality,” says Stephen Saint-Onge, New York City designer. It’s all in the details. Numbers, a knocker, the bell, even the doormat can set your home apart from others. Change just one element (say, the faded mat), or change them all. Metropolitan Retro Modern house numbers, \$15 each; atlasthomewares.com.

26 “Gather your accessories into one room, then re-accessorize. It’s amazing how attached we get to a lamp or vase always being in the same location. Just by switching things up, you can create a whole new look.”

NADIA GELLER, Hollywood designer

27 Turn a bedspread into curtains. It’s a sweet trick if standard panels are too short. Cut down the middle, iron on seam tape to finish edges, and hang with clip-on rings. Urban Outfitters’ (urbanoutfitters.com) \$36 lightweight cotton bedspreads work great.

29 Pinpoint the one (easy-to-fix) thing that really, really bugs you, such as a brassy chandelier. Change it.

30 “Lower your art. Most people hang it too high. To gauge the right height, pretend that you’re looking in a mirror. You shouldn’t have to look up at it.”

CELERIE KEMBLE
New York City designer