

INSTANT MAKEOVER

Front Door Face-lifts in a Flash!

Give your house curb appeal with these fast fixes.



When Meg and Michael Hall moved to their Connecticut neighborhood, they were disappointed to find that not a single home on the street stood out—including their own. “The houses were sweet, simple, and plain,” says Meg. Pricy interior renovations had depleted the couple’s already slim budget, so these new kids on the block searched for affordable accessories to create an eye-catching English country style. In a single Sunday afternoon, the Halls removed a storm door, painted the drab portal behind it a bold red, and added refined fixtures to complete the welcoming scene. “Now when I pull up to my house,” says Meg, “I’m proud to say I live there.”



Light fixtures

Though pricey, these jaunty lamps are made of durable commercial-grade aluminum. (\$217 each; barnlightelectric.com)

Street number

Why waste time etching glass when you can rub on and peel off a vinyl adhesive? (\$40; fastsigns.com for stores)

Stainless

An imprinted leather label brings the warmth of saddlery to polished steel. (\$74; mailboxworks.com)

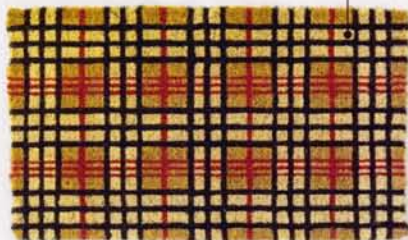


Paint

This Heritage Red hue manages to suggest both farm tractors and elegant riding coats. (\$56.99 per gallon; benjaminmoore.com for stores)

Mat

Imports Unlimited’s coir number resembles Burberry’s iconic plaid for a fraction of the cost. (\$23.95; at Orchard Nursery of Lafayette, 925-284-4474)



Knocker

Let this sly brass fox, in an aged verdigris finish, end your hunt for a playful way to greet guests. (\$24; anthropologie.com)



Planters

Bright-orange holders add an extra punch of color to the once-stale stoop. (\$78 each; chiasso.com)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (BEFORE AND AFTER) WENDELL T. WEBBER; (KNOCKER, MAT, STAINLESS) ADDIE JUEL/STUDIO D

Turn the page! Check out more front-door makeover themes. >

Plus: Three other standout styles—find the one that

DOORMAT

KNOCKER

HOUSE NUMBERS

FEMININE FOLK



Garden motif Backed with rubber and printed using fade-resistant ink, this sturdy rug holds up to foot traffic and still looks pretty. (\$38; chiasso.com)



Skeleton key Unlock the old-world appeal of this cast-iron shape, covered in a rust-resistant finish that'll withstand any storm. (\$69; rensup.com)



Handcrafted Artist Lisa Young sketches and finishes these sheet-metal numerals at her Seattle studio. (\$16 each; floppingfish.com)

CLASSIC WITH A TWIST



Striped Keep muddy soles in line with Imports Unlimited's symmetrical model, made of handwoven coir. (\$38; at Mod Cottage, 302-227-7277)



Ring This style once adorned medieval church doors; hang up your own, in solid brass finished with iron patina. (\$40; restorationhardware.com)



Vinyl Even the most fickle decorators will want to commit to these fire-engine red numbers that easily peel off. (\$23 for set; wonderfulgraffiti.com)

UPDATED RUSTIC



Silhouette Unica Home's hopping hare invites guests to admire its form—cut extra long for double doors—before heading inside. (\$176; unicahome.com)



Deer head Talk about getting bang for your buck! A brass stag all but guarantees a strong design statement. (\$48; ironaccents.com)



Faux bois These pewter numerals—cast to resemble vines and sticks of wood—impart fairy-tale romance. (\$12.60 each; atlashomewares.com)

PHOTOGRAPHS: GARDEN MOTIF; SILHOUETTE, SKELETON KEY, VINYL, LOCKED; ADDIE JUELL/STUDIO D; (HANDCRAFTED, THE STEAL); STRIPED; LARA ROBBY/STUDIO D; (PAINT) BEN GOLDSTEIN/STUDIO D

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