

25 **EASY WAYS** TO REVAMP YOUR HOME

Want to give your home a spring/summer uplift without spending a fortune? Well it can be done. We asked our interior design experts to tell us how.

'Bali' bedlinen, £130 (double),
The White Company.

OUR INTERIOR DESIGN EXPERTS:

Angela Bailey, visit: www.emblazondesign.co.uk or tel. 0161 438 6898

Rebekah Bailey, visit: <http://rebekahbailey.com> or tel. 0161 288 8811

Alice Buckley, visit: www.alicebuckley.co.uk or tel. 01606 892 183

Elaine Cunningham, visit: www.elainecunninghaminteriors.com or tel. 0845 500 5060

Ben Huckerby, visit: www.benhuckerbydesign.co.uk or tel. 0113 224 5446

Angela de Jong, visit: www.ciao-interiors.co.uk or tel. 0114 230 4800

Sarah Jane Nielsen, visit: www.sjn.uk.com or tel. 01539 444 285

Dipti Patel, visit: www.charismainteriorsdesign.co.uk or tel. 07515 387354

REVAMP YOUR HOME



KITCHEN

1 Change your cupboard doors. It's the quickest way to get a "new kitchen" feel without having to start from scratch, says Manchester-based Emblazon Design's founder and interior designer Angela Bailey. "Replace the doors or just paint/cover them," she says. "Formica (www.formica.co.uk) is an often overlooked material, but can be used to great effect. You could transform your kitchen over a weekend."

2 Get painting. "A coat of paint is always a fairly inexpensive update, but if you don't fancy doing the whole room then just concentrate on one feature wall with some horizontal-painted stripes, it's easy-to-do and very effective," says interior designer Angela de Jong from Sheffield's Ciao Interiors Ltd.

3 Try new appliances for a co-ordinated look. Cheshire-based interior designer Dipti Patel from Charisma Interior Design says, "Try vibrant red and industrial metallic to add a splash of colour and chic."

4 Experiment with your cupboard knobs. "Simply by changing the little things such as cupboard handles for something completely different can change the look of your kitchen," says Alice Buckley from Cheshire company Alice Buckley Interior Design.

5 Invest in new worktop surfaces. "You can create separate zones by using different types of worktop," advises Ben Huckerby from Leeds-based designers Ben Huckerby Design. "Whenever possible use granite or marble worktops. This will really enhance the overall look of your kitchen. Granite has reflective qualities that add interesting effects to a scheme and makes a great preparation area, especially for rolling out pastry."

BEDROOM

6 Give your curtains an edge. "Hem plain-coloured curtains with lengths of more expensive fabrics (to create a bottom border) for a luxurious look on a budget," says Dipti Patel.

7 Accessorise like a pro. "Change or invest in some soft furnishings," advises Alice Buckley. "Add a new bed throw and a pair of large cushions to dress the bed." We can't get enough of the cute cushions by Toast and www.hunkydoryhome.com.

8 Only revamp your "keepers." "Think about what you'll take with you if/when you move and spend accordingly," suggests Angela Bailey. "Furniture such as your bed and bedside cabinets will probably move with you so update these. Fitted wardrobes won't."

9 New bed linen always freshens up bedroom space, says Angela de Jong. "For a smart look choose crisp white bed linen with a thin border in a neutral shade or dark charcoal." Check out The White Company's current bed linen collection – clean, crisp and perfect.

10 Big up your headboard. "Invest in a new oversize headboard," says Dipti. "Or use some upholstery fabric and staple it to the existing headboard to provide a new look."



THIS PAGE DeLonghi Red 'Icona' kettle, £69.95, toaster, £56.45, John Lewis 'Cornwall' cushions, from £28, Laura Ashley 'Madras' cushions, £20, Toast cushions by Toast and www.hunkydoryhome.com.
BELOW Matt emulsion paints, £27.50 for 2.5l, Zoffany.



THE SPRING/SUMMER COLOUR PALETTE

"There is a fabulous bright colour mix between warm **English mustard** and **pale lime** which gives instant radiance to any space," says Cumbria-based interior designer **Sarah Jane Nielsen** from **Sarah Jane Nielsen Interior Design**. "Use it as an accent against a soft grey like Zoffany's Paris Grey."

"Try using tones of **stone**, **olive** and **fawn** instead of creams and beiges," suggests Manchester-based interior designer **Rebekah Bailey**. "They're great for an updated look – Farrow & Ball have an excellent choice of paints to work with and there is also a good range of wallpapers in these colours too."

BATHROOM

16 Cut the clutter. Dipti advises, "Get rid of broken toys and jars filled with shells from old seaside holidays. Only keep in the bathroom what belongs there."

17 Liven up dull handtowels. "If the majority of your towels are neutral or white, replace some of your hand or face towels with a new accent colour," says Alice Buckley.

18 Throw a scented candle into the mix. Angela de Jong says: "To immediately uplift your bathroom add some luscious soaps and a fragranced candle." For a luxe buy, opt for a gorgeous Jo Malone scented candle.

19 Experiment with tile paints and repaint your existing tiles, suggests Angela Bailey. "Applied carefully to the walls it can give the room a new lease of life," she says.

20 Splash out on a new towel radiator. "They're perfect for keeping your towels dry and warm, while creating a more modern look," says Dipti.

HALLWAY

21 Make an entrance. "Think about changing light fittings, such as pendants and wall lights," says Alice Buckley. "Especially if the hallway area is dark."

22 Open up the staircase by removing the spindles and replace them with toughened glass. "This can make the area much lighter and seem more spacious," says Dipti.

23 Maximise light and space with mirrors. "The hallway is the easiest and most cost-effective room to revamp," says Elaine Cunningham. "It's very easy to open up this space using mirrors and light colours on the walls." Graham and Green's gorgeous range of mirrors will lighten and brighten your welcome space (www.grahamandgreen.com).

24 Put up your favourite photos. "A selection of photographs in black and white frames of various sizes will look striking against a plain wall," advises Dipti.

25 Go for flower power. "Display Granny's chipped china plate on a side table with a selection of antique door knobs," says Angela de Jong. "Or try displaying a couple of neatly stacked books alongside a glass vase filled with fresh flowers." Jane Packer deliver a decadent bouquet to your doorstep at the click of a mouse (www.janepacker.com).

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Travel candles, £54, Jo Malone. "Constellation" mirror, £200, Laura Ashley. "Glo Ball" floor lamp, from £512, Fos. "Brera" floor lamp, from £296, Fos. "Logica" floorlamp, £678, Artemide.

HIDDEN GEMS

"Pop Boutique is great for vintage pieces," says Angela Bailey. "It's a treasure trove of glassware, lighting, even clothes and accessories." **Find it: Pop Boutique, 34-36 Oldham St, Manchester**

"Au Naturele Interiors has a fabulous range of soft furnishing, storage solutions, candles, vases, mirrors and prints," says Dipti Patel. "Perfect for dressing any room." **Find it: Au Naturele Interiors, Cheshire Oaks Outlet Village, Ellesmere Port**

"Newly opened Emma Jane Interiors is a perfect place to find revamped old pieces of furniture or pick fabric to reupholster your own furniture," says Alice Buckley. **Find it: Emma Jane Interiors, 7 High Street, Weaverham**

LIVING AREA

11 Buy a statement floor lamp. Artemide Italia has a brilliant range of over 50 to choose from (www.artemide.com). "It's worth spending on items such as a statement floor lamp for a new focal point in the room," says Alice Buckley.

12 Bring the outside in. "Bringing nature into your home instantly gives the feel of earthiness and space," says Elaine Cunningham. "Collect twigs and branches from your garden then bunch them in a nice vase to create a trend-led update."

13 Be your own artist. "Make a wall art using fabric to create a focal point," advises Dipti. "Invest in some funky fabric – you only need a small amount to make a big difference, staple it onto a canvas and lean it in an alcove or mount it on the wall."

14 Get your fabrics out. "Reupholster an old statement chair to create a different look," suggests Elaine Cunningham whose fab fabrics fit the bill perfectly (tel. 0845 500 5060). It's also worth paying your nearest Laura Ashley a visit.

15 Light up your lounge. "Replace tired-looking lampshades," advises Angela de Jong. "These are now available lined in vibrant silks, either plain or patterned, which gives an individual look."

