

# 4-H HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



## Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

### Communication

- Share with friends how to select a color scheme for their bedroom
- Develop a step-by-step checklist showing how to cover a headboard using padding and fabric
- Create a video showing how to be energy efficient in homes

### Citizenship

- Assist an elderly person with painting their living room
- Share with family and friends how to keep living spaces safe
- Show local museum staff how to properly arrange, protect, and display historical items

### Leadership

- Show siblings how a shared space can be divided using furniture placement
- Teach adults proper disposal methods of refinishing materials
- Work with a non-profit in creating a functional meeting space floor plan

**4-H**  
GROWING TOGETHER

## Are You Into It?

Have fun learning how to design your space while being kind to the environment. If you are interested in creating a new color scheme, selecting new accessories for a room, or choosing new floor and window covers, this is the project for you.

- Master the elements and principles of design to make your house a home
- Plan home living spaces in keeping with the needs of family members
- Develop your skill in caring for home furnishings and accessories
- Explore opportunities for environmentally friendly choices in your home

## Here's what you can do all year!

### Starting Out Basic / Level 1

- Learn the language of home improvement: design elements and principles
- Plan and design your own space with new techniques
- Uncover and compare costs to design and accessorize your space
- Practice choosing wall treatments, window coverings, and floors
- Discover how paint, wall treatments, flooring, and window coverings create different effects in a

### Learning More Intermediate / Level 2

- Get the 411 on furniture styles
- Plan your space using needs, wants, and timelines to make choices
- Create design boards to visualize living spaces
- Learn helpful strategies for developing shopping lists
- Coordinate fabrics and patterns
- Effectively reduce clutter and stash your stuff
- Take care of your furniture possessions
- Experiment with the arrangement of photos on a wall for different effects

### Expanding Horizons Advanced / Level 3

- Select fun accessories for the finishing touch
- Showcase favorite room accessories
- Install bright lighting ideas
- Create personality in a shared space
- Use natural resources effectively
- Be in the know with energy efficient products
- Examine environmentally friendly practices: reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink
- Investigate energy wasters in the home



# Take Home Improvement further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Home Improvement:

- Contact your County Extension Office to participate in local home improvement camps and workshops
- Consider taking an exhibit, a piece of your project learning, to the county fair for judging and show friends and family what you learned throughout the year - your might get selected to attend the Iowa State Fair
- Explore online design career fields such as interior design, landscape architecture, professional organization, home staging, community and regional planning, marketing, publishing, and advertising
- Job shadow professionals concerned with home environmental issues: energy, lighting, landscape, recycling, and eco-friendly cleaning products
- Design, create, and market soft furnishing accessories to sell at local craft shows
- Gather a group of friends interested in interior design and volunteer to redesign and rearrange a room at your school to make the area more functional
- Work with local partners to establish a community day for the free disposal of paint materials and solvents
- Start a wood salvage shop where old wood furnishings and wood scraps are available to the public for reusing and repurposing
- Interested in a college education in the area of design? Schedule a visit with Iowa State University's College of Design to explore potential majors <http://www.design.iastate.edu/>

## Exhibit Ideas

- Take photos of home decoration that demonstrates the use of design elements and principles
- Compare the pros and cons of sponging, rag-rolling, stenciling, and stamping walls
- Refinish a family antique chair, table, stand, or dresser
- Illustrate how various wall coverings and flooring have different effects in living spaces
- Create a poster that provides examples of elements of different furniture styles
- Develop a design board showing how an existing floor plan can be transformed to a more functional floor plan
- Compare the effectiveness of different products in removing stains from hard and soft home furnishings
- Illustrate the different effects of light quality based on bulb type, shade size, lamp height, and wall color
- Identify the pros and cons of starting an organizational business to help clients develop spaces for items they use and need
- Use a model kit to build a solar home showing how the sun's energy can be used to heat a home
- Showcase a home improvement item you created in your first, second, and third year in the project describing new skills learned and used
- Make a pillow to fit with a room's color scheme
- Make a cleaning tote to carry from room to room

## Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iowa 4-H Home Improvement <a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/homeimprovement.htm">www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/homeimprovement.htm</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Design Decisions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Pulling it Together</a> (4H 492)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Design: Exploring the Elements and Principles</a> (4H 634)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Color Wheel</a> (4H 633)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design Decisions <a href="http://www.4h.unl.edu/designdecisions">www.4h.unl.edu/designdecisions</a></li> <li>• Iowa State University Extension Home and Family <a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/homefamily/housing/">www.extension.iastate.edu/homefamily/housing/</a></li> <li>• Careers in Interior Design <a href="http://www.careersininteriordesign.com">www.careersininteriordesign.com</a></li> <li>• ArtsConnectEd <a href="http://artsconnected.org/toolkit">http://artsconnected.org/toolkit</a></li> <li>• Google SketchUp <a href="http://sketchup.google.com/">http://sketchup.google.com/</a></li> <li>• American Coatings Assoc. <a href="http://www.paint.org">www.paint.org</a></li> <li>• Ecological Footprint <a href="http://www.myfootprint.org/en/">www.myfootprint.org/en/</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">4-H Yearly Summary (4H0096)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Basic 4-H Project Record (4H-0096A)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Experienced 4-H Project Record (4H0096B)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Advanced 4-H Project Record (4H0096C)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Record keeping Self-Evaluation (4H98)</a></li> </ul>