

Swift Swaps for New Homeowners
Easy-to-Update Items to Make Your New Home "Yours"

Oakville, Ontario... Are you a new homeowner? If so, you've most likely felt the urge to settle in immediately. However, before making any major renovations, it's a good idea to live in a new home a while to see how the space is meeting your needs. Try starting small and work your way up to big projects. Here are a few swift swaps that will have a big impact in making that new house feel like "home sweet home."

Personalize with Paint

It may be the most obvious update, but painting is an easy solution to change the look of a room in an instant. Whether you paint an entire room, create a bold accent wall or incorporate glossy white trim, paint is an affordable fix for any home.

Painting is also a great way to add a personal touch and showcase your design style. Looking to add a fun pattern to a space? Rather than messing around with wallpaper, try using a patterned paint roller to create a beautiful stencil-like design. By taking this route, you'll get the beauty of expensive wallpaper at the cost of ordinary paint – all with an ease never before imagined.

Fabulous Frames

When moving into a new space, the things you love should take centre stage. Once your home reflects who you are, the rest will slowly fall into place. Photo frames are the ideal choice to add a decorative and personalized touch to any room. Bring this common décor pick into the modern age by creating a personal gallery and displaying frames of varying shapes and sizes. To do this, plan the layout of the frames before hanging, either with paper on the wall or by arranging them on the floor. Or, you can simply purchase pre-arranged frame galleries at a home décor retailer. Once the design is determined, fill frames with your favourite art pieces or personal photos for an eye-catching display that will make your house your home.

Faucet Focus

Kitchen and bath makeovers tend to have the biggest impact on a home *and* its resale value. However, new homeowners who are strapped for cash may not have a large budget for a full-

scale bathroom remodel. Fortunately, there are several basic swaps that can quickly change the look and feel of a bath.

The easiest way to remodel your bathroom is to replace its hardest-working fixture – the faucet. This is also a project new homeowners can tackle themselves at a reasonable price. Moen offers a wide variety of faucet options, like the new single-handle Boardwalk™ bathroom faucet, to add a fresh, elegant look to the sink. Boardwalk fits almost any décor and comes in Moen's Spot Resist™ Brushed Nickel finish, which resists fingerprints and water spots, so the faucet will stay looking clean as you show it off to family and friends. For a polished look, swap out old hardware with affordable, coordinated accessories including robe hooks, towel rings and towel bars.

Energy-Saving Essentials

Wasting energy means wasting money. When you go from a renter to a home owner, it's important to recognize and fix energy-draining areas before bills are through the roof. Many of these updates are easy enough for even a novice DIYer – with minimal expense and maximum results. For example, caulking around windows and spaces between the floor and baseboards in attics and sun rooms will help prevent drafts. Consider purchasing a draft stopper for the bottoms of doors (a cheap fix from \$10 per door) so wind or heat doesn't slip through.

Additionally, service your furnace annually, so it produces more heat while using less energy.

Let There be Light

Light is an essential element for any room. Until your home is furnished and decorated to your liking, lighting is a great way to add warmth to a sparse space. It may seem strange, but with just a few fixtures in the right place, a space can easily appear bigger, taller, longer or cozier. If you're looking to reduce the overall scale of a room, consider placing several table lamps throughout to create an intimate atmosphere. In addition to setting the mood, amp up energy savings with lighting by switching to LED bulbs – these bulbs don't cause heat buildup and last up to 10 times as long as compact fluorescents and 20 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

When making these changes to a new home, keep track of your hard work by creating a homeowner's journal. Purchase a ring binder to keep insurance papers, repair receipts and all other paperwork pertaining to home upgrades, energy improvements or damages. Storing all home information in one handy place will make life easier during future repairs and can be helpful tool when selling down the road.

It's very easy for decorating to become overwhelming for new homeowners. By starting with these few swift home décor swaps, your new home will be a comfortable and welcoming environment in no time.

For more information about Moen products, visit moen.ca.

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About Moen Canada

As the #1 faucet brand in North America, Moen Canada offers a diverse selection of thoughtfully designed kitchen and bath faucets, showerheads, accessories and bath safety products for residential applications – each delivering the best possible combination of meaningful innovation, useful features, on-trend styling and lasting value. In addition, Moen® Commercial offers superior performing products that deliver lower lifetime costs for today's facilities.

Moen has worked diligently to support, promote and advance sustainability within the organization and the plumbing industry. The company has been recognized with the 2011 EPA WaterSense® Excellence Award, as well as the 2010 EPA WaterSense Manufacturer Partner of the Year Award, for its work to protect the future of our nation's water supply through the introduction and ongoing support of water-efficient products, programs and practices, while keeping consumers' needs top-of-mind.

Moen is part of Fortune Brands Home & Security, Inc. (NYSE: FBHS), which creates products and services that help fulfill the dreams of homeowners and help people feel more secure. The company is a leader in the home and security industries and features well-known and trusted brands like Moen® faucets, Master Lock® padlocks and security products, MasterBrand Cabinets®, Therma-Tru® entryway systems and Simonton Windows®. For more information, please visit www.fbhs.com.

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