

HOUSE2HOME

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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DIY PROJECTS: PREPARATION MAKES IT HAPPEN

Do-it-yourself (DIY) home projects are a great way to save money and take personal pride in updates to your home. Sometimes the task at hand can be daunting, but with proper preparation it can be manageable. The most important factor in DIY success is preparation. Here are some ways to prepare:

- Evaluate your home and come up with a prioritized list. Tackle the most critical projects first before moving on to cosmetic improvements. www.diynetwork.com offers a great list to get you started.
- Need help generating ideas? Check out Pinterest.com. This social pin board allows you to find and swap DIY tips with other crafty homeowners.
- Create a detailed checklist and project plan to avoid hassles such as multiple trips to the store, additional labor and costly replacement parts.
 - Make sure you have the correct tools and hardware for the project's start to finish.
 - Draw a sketch of your vision – this will keep you on track during assembly, and will give you something to reference when you ask questions at your hardware store.
 - Schedule your time – whether you're planning to tackle it in a weekend or several weeks, block out time for your project and make sure you account for things to set and/or dry if necessary.
- Make sure safety comes first. Have a first aid kit handy, wear the proper safety gear and make sure to follow instructions, rather than intuition.
 - Avoid baggy clothing or long, loose sleeves that could get caught while you're working with power tools.
 - If your project has an electrical component, be very careful with live wires, and use a noncontact voltage tester (available at your hardware store) before touching them.
- It's important to make sure that additions such as decks or porches, or major changes to your interior like knocking out a wall, are up to code, and that you obtain necessary permits. To save money down the road, have an inspector come out at the start of the project.

EASY DIY SALSA

Ingredients

- 4 large plum tomatoes (about 1 pound), diced (to yield 2 cups)
- 1/4 cup white onion, chopped
- 3 tablespoons fresh cilantro, chopped
- 2 teaspoons jalapeno (remove seeds for less heat), minced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt (or to taste)
- 1 small garlic clove, minced

Method:

Combine all the ingredients in a bowl. If you prefer a smoother texture -- more like jarred -- pulse half the salsa in a food processor, then combine it with the remaining chunky half. Cover tightly and refrigerate for up to 5 days.

Recipe courtesy of www.myrecipes.com



WARRANTY WISDOM

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