

Spring is a time of renewal with flowers and trees blooming, grass greening and warmer temperatures bringing us back to the outdoors. But before you can begin to truly enjoy the fresh air - there are many updates needed to help your patio areas recover from the harsh effects of old man winter.

Luckily, with a few spring spruce-up projects, you can achieve a patio revival in only a weekend that's simple, yet looks sensational.

Wash away winter

When we think spring - we think cleaning. No matter what type of patio you may have, pressure washing is a simple way to make it shine. It offers instant gratification as layers of dirt, dust and grime are quickly blasted away. Don't have a pressure washer? No need to run out and buy one; most rental companies or home improvement centers offer reasonably priced daily rentals. Or it's an opportunity to visit the neighbors you haven't seen during the cold months to borrow theirs.

Bring new life to old furniture

Once your patio area is clean, it's time to bring out the seating. But have your table and chairs seen better days? The outdoor elements can wreak havoc on patio furniture. Fortunately, you can easily turn something ready for the trash into a new treasure by updating it with a coat of spray paint.

To start, lightly sand and clean the entire surface. Next, spray the entire piece of furniture with a new, updated paint color. For metal, wood or wicker surfaces, try Krylon's Outdoor Spaces spray, or for plastic surfaces, try Krylon's Fusion for Plastic spray paint.

Both products are available in a wide selection of popular colors and finishes and offer superior protection to keep your patio furniture looking beautiful for years to come.

Petals and pots with pizzazz

Finally, it's time to liven up your patio area with beautiful and aromatic flowers. But just as important as choosing the pretty petals, is planting them in the perfect pot. Terra cotta pots are ideal since they come in a variety of sizes and are inexpensive. For added pizzazz, you can update these planters with a splash of color. You can choose one color for all of your pots or mix it up. This is a great project that allows you to experiment with all of the colors that you love but were hesitant to commit to inside your home. If you change your mind, all you need is a new can of spray paint.

To start, turn each pot upside down on newspaper and spray the pot with your favorite shade of Krylon Outdoor Spaces spray paint. Once dry, you may choose to spray your vibrant pot with a clear, pearlescent or glitter spray to achieve the dazzling finish you desire.

With just these few simple projects, your patio will be festive and fashionable in just a weekend's worth of work. For more information on other products or products from Krylon, visit www.projectsina.com.

Courtesy ARAcontent



Attaining the perfect patio in 48 hours



Heat up your kitchen with spring's top color trends

(ARA) - The kitchen is the heart of the home: a place to cook and share a meal, to entertain friends, gather as a family and even pay bills or do homework.

"From a decor perspective, the kitchen is the perfect place to get colorful," says Ginny Bean, publisher of Ginny's catalog and founder of Ginny's.com. "Vibrant colors are a great way to reflect and reinforce the high energy of your home's central gathering place."

Energizing your kitchen doesn't take a major decor overhaul. Some strategically selected splashes of color in countertop appliances, cookware, dinnerware, candles, placemats and other linens can do the trick.

"Among this spring's hottest colors, warm hues like tangerine and butterscotch are perfect for kitchens because they're comforting and actually stimulate appetite," explains Bean. "A lot of the fun comes in blending old favorites and new shades in fresh, innovative ways." Color palettes that Bean recommends for spring 2011 include:

Rustic revival: Relaxed and informal, this palette is inspired by nature and features colors pulled from the outdoors. Shades such as basil, eggplant and copper help create a cozy space reminiscent of the past and simpler times. For a new spin on a traditional rustic color scheme, Bean suggests pairing a deep, earthy hue with accents of cool pink.

Bold expression: Exuding optimism, this palette creates a look that is both unconventional and energetic. Unique color mixes, such as intense purple combined with butterscotch and Capri blue, or sunny orange with dark red balanced against a

soft neutral like champagne, create a space that's eclectic, yet warm and welcoming. Bean recommends mixing patterns, textures and styles for

a one-of-a-kind look.

Classic elegance: Evoking the look of 17th century Versailles, this color palette will give your kitchen a serene, elegant look. Traditional shades like lavender, turquoise, antique pink and bronze can be combined with touches of richer colors like peacock, charcoal and delicious red for a more contemporary look.

World market: With the explosion of technology, the world has suddenly become a much smaller place. This modern palette reflects the new global outlook with cookware and other accents in colors from other cultures, such as the calm oranges and yellows of India, the bright reds of the Far East, and the Capri blue of the Mediterranean. Bean suggests grounding these bright colors with black, white, silver or brushed stainless.

"In the final analysis, it's all about doing what you like and surrounding yourself with the colors that make you happy," says Bean.

Long recognized as a leader in the colorful kitchen revolution, Ginny's has recently entered into agreements with top kitchenware manufacturers, including Cuisinart, KitchenAid, Rachael Ray and Paula Deen, to offer their products in exclusive designer colors. To request a catalog or place an order, log on to Ginnys.com or call (800) 693-0809. You can also find Ginny's on Facebook.

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2011 Amherst Patriots Football and Cheer

The Amherst Patriots Pop Warner Football and Cheer registration is now open for the 2011 season. The football and cheer programs with the Amherst Patriots serves the Greater Amherst area (Amherst, Mont Vernon, Hollis, Brookline, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Lyndeborough). There will be an informational meeting night at Wilkins Elementary School on April 12, 2011 from 7-8pm for parents who are interested in finding out more about the organization and what it has to offer your child. You can also go to our website at www.amherstpatriots.com to register children between the ages of 5 and 12 for Pop Warner football and cheer. If you have any questions regarding the program please email zvicepresident@amherstpatriots.com.

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