

DIY

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LOCAL

FIX IT



4 tips for improving your home’s soundproofing

Is your home too noisy? Whether it’s music from a bass-heavy sound system or dropped objects and heavy footfalls upstairs, excess noise can be stressful and frustrating. Do you want to minimize the auditory disruptions without doing extensive renovations that cost a fortune? Here are a few tips to make your home more soundproof.



1. Decorate with heavy textiles. The thicker the fabrics you choose to decorate a room, the more sounds can be absorbed and muted. Opt for a dense, soft rug, textured curtains or large cushions.
2. Apply caulking. You can make your home quieter by filling gaps with silicone sealant. Apply it around door frames and light switches, as well as any other cracks. Sealing up the walls and ceilings will help reduce noise resonance.
3. Move large items away from the walls. Pull your bed, sofa, washer, dryer and refrigerator away from the walls to minimize the transmission of vibrations. This is an effective way to minimize sleep disturbances caused by heavy walkers and loud appliances.
4. Call a professional. If your situation doesn’t improve after making these changes, consider hiring a professional to soundproof your home. They may be able to install acoustic panels or place wool insulation in the walls or ceiling.

If you’re renting, don’t forget to consult your landlord before doing any structural work. Do you need help? Ask the professionals at your local home renovation or hardware store for advice.



Should you sell or renovate your home? Here’s how to make the right choice

For most homeowners, there comes a time when their property no longer serves their needs. Does your house seem too big now that your children have flown the nest? Are you dealing with a loss of mobility and finding your bathroom difficult to navigate? Should you renovate your existing property, or is it better to sell it and find something more suitable? Time to decide!

Selling
Selling your home offers several advantages. If you buy a new property, you can choose a place with all the features you need or want, like an additional bathroom or a larger bedroom, without having to undertake major renovations. Sometimes, the condition of your home makes a remodel not worth the expense and time.



On the other hand, moving to a new home can be extremely stressful, as it means adjusting to a different location, new routines and unfamiliar neighbours. When it comes to finances, don’t forget to factor in additional costs related to your property sale and new purchase, such as taxes and notary and inspection fees.



Renovating
Do you love your neighbourhood but want to make your home more comfortable? If so, a reno may be your best option. Renovating your existing property can help you make the most of your space and, at the same time, increase your property value.

However, remember to make a budget. As often happens during a renovation, an unexpected event or discovery can quickly drive expenses well beyond the estimated cost. Also, be prepared for noise and debris to disrupt your routine for the duration of the work.

Do you need help deciding whether to move into a new house or renovate your existing property? Talk to a real estate professional for advice.



Discover the lasting charm of slow decor

When it comes to redesigning your living space, you may consider the pure esthetic value of your decor, as well as its sustainability. The “slow decorating” trend brings these two criteria together beautifully. Here’s an overview of this growing movement.

Principle
Simplicity, consideration and moderation are what slow decorating is all about. This thoughtful approach aims to create warm and inviting spaces without contributing to the throwaway culture of fast fashion. In contrast to the frenetic pace of modern life, slow decor seeks to create a soothing sense of calm by decluttering the home.

Applications
Do you want to incorporate slow decor into your space? Try these ideas:

- Sort through your furnishings and other belongings, keeping only the essentials.
- Visit flea markets and look for small decorative treasures in materials like rat-

- tan, wood, terra cotta or porcelain.
- Incorporate natural textiles. Fabrics like wool and cotton will enhance the serene look of your living room or bedroom.
- Add character to your space by choosing primarily handmade and locally sourced objects.
- Place potted or hanging plants everywhere to brighten up your home and purify the air.

Visit the home decor stores in your area to redecorate your space.

If you’re good with your hands, you can give life to an old piece of wooden furniture. Using a little paint stripper and some paint or stain, you can help reduce your consumption of new goods. The charm of slow decorating also comes from repurposing old objects.





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Investing in real estate: where to start



If your goal is to grow your wealth and strengthen your financial stability, investing in real estate is an excellent strategy. Here are a few tips for getting started.

Analyze market trends
Check out expert opinions and industry databases to gain a better sense of current market conditions, the types of buildings with the greatest profit margins and the most desirable locations. You may want to take a real estate course to gain a better understanding of these resources and tools.

Choose a type of investment
Let your research guide what type of building you buy. You may be able to turn a quick profit by flipping the property, but it can

be a stressful process. An apartment building could provide a stable income, but you'll need to find and manage tenants.

Determine your budget
How much money can you invest? What is your borrowing capacity? Planning is essential! In addition to the purchase price of the property, be prepared for renovation costs and taxes. Depending on your financial situation, you may want to prioritize a certain type of investment, such as residential or commercial.

Real estate investment can be an exciting adventure, but starting out can be stressful. Talk with a real estate expert or financial advisor for personalized advice.

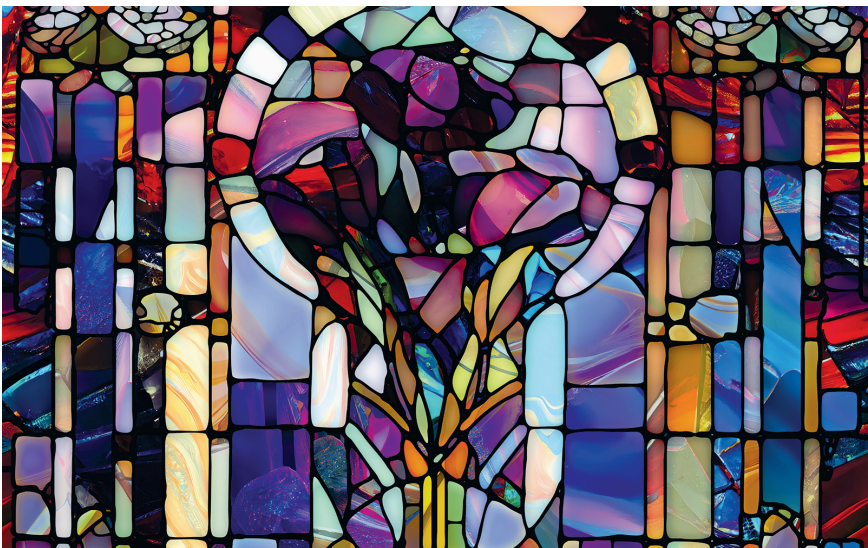
Western Gothic style for chic, eclectic decor

When it comes to truly original home decor, nothing beats a cohesive blend of styles. The Western Gothic trend is perfect proof. Here's how you can integrate it into your home.

Create contrasts
At first glance, you may not believe that western and gothic could go together. However, the contrast created by blending their signature elements achieves an effect that is both rustic and enchanting.

- Western elements. Look for wooden furniture and faux animal-skin or animal-print rugs. Decorative features like a cow skull, equestrian-themed fabrics or a cactus will really play up the cowboy esthetic.

- Gothic elements. Choose a darker colour palette and heavy velvet draperies. Stained-glass windows like those you'd find in a church will ramp up the drama for a striking impact.



Push the limits
Do you want to go all in on Western Gothic? Here are a few more ideas to help you achieve a truly striking decor:

- A vintage daybed with faux fur cushions
- Cabinets with light-coloured wood and copper-finish faucets
- Faux marble busts placed on shelves made of recovered barn wood
- Black ceramic bathroom tiles accented with small artisanal objects

Western Gothic lets you have fun creating a decor to reflect your dynamic personality. Visit your local home decorating stores to find what you need.



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