

HOMEFRONT

2019 Home Improvement Trends

CEFCU® Card Enhancements

Saving for a Down Payment?

Checklist for Changing Seasons

2019 Home Improvement Trends

For larger, one-time expenses or ongoing access to funds, the equity in your home may be a strong tool in your toolbox to transform old spaces into new ones. Consider a CEFCU Home Equity Loan for your projects.

Using a Home Equity Loan for improvements can add to the look, comfort, and value of your home. And, if you plan to sell your house within the next 10 years, your loan could pay for itself!

Looking for inspiration? Here are some of the top home improvement trends for 2019:

- **OPEN SHELVING.** Swapping upper kitchen cabinets for open shelves can make a kitchen feel larger and brighter. If you're not ready to give up all your upper cabinet space, test the look and functionality by replacing a couple cabinets with open shelves for a lower-cost commitment and a more current look.
- **MIXED METALS.** If you have mainly black or white finishes throughout your home, consider mixing metals. For rooms with warmer color palettes, brass and copper are top choices. For cool palettes, pewter and stainless steel are trending.
- **OPEN FLOOR PLANS.** Not only do open floor plans make spaces look larger and often allow for more natural light, they also make cooking, dining, and gathering spots more flexible. The most common trend is kitchen spaces that open into a family room or great room.
- **MULTI-GENERATIONAL LIVING SPACES.** There's a growing trend to accommodate different ages under the same roof, including aging parents and kids transitioning from school. To accommodate different generations, consider widening hallways and doorways and adding walk-in or seating areas in showers for accessibility; changing flooring across rooms with a consistent surface to handle higher foot traffic; and even adding a second kitchen in a different part of the house to create a more independent living space.
- **MUDROOMS.** Mudrooms aren't new, but families with kids are adding or renovating entrance areas. Updates include installing tile, painting colorful wall spaces, and adding sitting areas (so kids can take off shoes, unload sports gear, etc.) and cubby spaces or lockers to store items like coats and backpacks. It can make cleaning and organizing much easier, too!

Paint is still the most affordable and impactful renovation. White and grey continue to be top color choices, but there's a trend to warmer, earthier beige and blue tones. Deep-colored accent walls are also popular for adding depth and dimension to rooms. Navy is the new, rising "color star," as it coordinates well with many base colors. Look at what a simple paint change can do for the value of your home:



Source: remodelingexpense.com [2019]

Inspired? Find out how much equity is available in your home by applying for a CEFCU Home Equity Loan:

- Online at cefcu.com/equity
- In person at a Member Center
- By phone at 1.800.858.3400.

Enjoy a great rate and personalized service. There's also no annual fee, no early payment penalty, and no termination fee. A win-win to improve the look and feel of your current home and help increase its value.

NEW!

CEFCU Card Enhancements Put You in Control!

Whether you're making improvements to your home or remodeling — CEFCU Debit and Credit Mastercards® are great choices for making purchases.

For Debit Cards, get:

- **Card Alerts:** Set up seven types of alerts and have them delivered by email or text via CEFCU On-Line® and Mobile Banking.
- **CEFCU My Pay:** Send money to family and friends quickly and securely.

New, secure **Credit Card** features are also available through CEFCU On-Line and Mobile Banking, including integrated eStatements, pending transaction history, and real-time credit balances and updates.

Watch for even more enhancements coming soon!



SPECIAL OFFERS

Find out about our special CEFCU Credit Mastercard offers. Visit cefcu.com/mycard, head to a Member Center near you, or call 1.800.633.7077.

Saving For a Down Payment?



Did you know 20% is generally not required for a down payment if you're a first-time home buyer? You may qualify for as little as 3–5% down with CEFCU's low down payment options for Home Loans, including:

- USDA Rural Housing Guarantee Loan Program
- Flex 97
- Take Five
- Plus other programs and grants.

What's more? You will save \$625 or more* through our special First-Time Home Buyer offer! Last year, our members averaged more than \$1,000 in savings with our Closing Cost program.

As a first-time home buyer, where do you start? First, think about what you want in a home and what you can afford. Then, set a budget to help you save for a down payment, and get preapproved. Getting preapproved gives you peace of mind for how much you can afford and shows Realtors and sellers you're ready, willing, and able to buy a home.

Once you know what you can afford, there are many ways to save for a down payment such as:

- Setting aside a percentage of your income — a rule of thumb is to save 10% of earnings.
- Setting aside tax refunds, raises, bonuses, and commissions — any extra unexpected income.
- Using CEFCU's Online Budgeting Tools to track your spending and set a budget to help you save. Learn more at cefcu.com/budget.
- Consolidating higher-interest rate debt, including student loans and credit cards, to reduce monthly payments and save money. To see if you can save, go to cefcu.com/apply.

Whatever your timeframe for buying a home, be sure to use all the resources CEFCU offers to help you assess your readiness and help you save for your down payment! Check us out at cefcu.com/newhome or call 1.800.633.7077, ext. 33424.

*Offer available for a limited time for qualified members in good standing who use a CEFCU Checking account and are purchasing or building their first home or haven't owned a home in the last three years. Select, third-party fees paid by CEFCU include: appraisal, credit report, flood determination, tax service fee, title company closing fee, and recording fee. Fees CEFCU will not cover and which must be paid include, but are not limited to: Taxes, private mortgage insurance (PMI), prepaid mortgage interest and/or insurance costs, jumbo or discount points, attorney or title company fees not listed above, any interest rate relock fees. Offer is not available for loans used to purchase a second home, investment home, or non-owner-occupied home or to refinance or modify an existing loan. Contact CEFCU for complete details.

"Must-Dos" for First-Time Home Buyers

1

Decide what type of home you want.

2

Determine what you can afford.

3

Budget for a down payment.

4

Get preapproved.

5

Start looking!



Not a bank. Better.®

P.O.Box 1715 • Peoria, IL 61656-1715
1.800.633.7077 • cefcu.com

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
PEORIA IL
PERMIT NO 512

Welcome to CEFCU® Home Front, a newsletter just for members like you. Inside, you'll find articles covering:

- 2019 Home Improvement Trends
- CEFCU Card Enhancements
- Tips on Saving for a Down Payment
- And more!



Federally Insured
by NCUA

Mastercard is a registered trademark, and the circles design is a trademark of Mastercard International Incorporated.

Changing Seasons Checklist

OUTSIDE:

- Have salt pellets and/or a shovel (for colder regions) to clear paved surfaces.
- Disconnect and store garden hoses.
- Oil, clean, and store lawn tools.
- Clean gutters & downspouts to prevent buildup of leaves and debris.
- Trim weak branches close to your property or power lines to avoid damage from high winds.

DOORS & WINDOWS:

- Change screens to storm windows & doors.
- Caulk or weather strip around drafty windows & doors.
- Energy Star estimates sealing doors and windows can save up to 20% on your utility bill.¹

HEATING SYSTEM:

- Get a furnace inspection, and check your furnace filter. According to Planet Green, a clean filter can save you 5–15% on your heating bill and help it run more efficiently!¹
- Consider changing your thermostat to a programmable one. You can program it to run only when you need it — increasing efficiency and decreasing utility bills.

ROOF, CHIMNEYS, & DECKS:

- Look for loose or damaged roof shingles and loose gutters (or ask a professional to help).
- Ask a professional to clean chimneys before your first cool-weather use.
- Seal your deck to protect it from the elements.

¹moneycrashers.com/winterizing-your-home [8/19]