



# 2015 REALTORS® Open House Weekend June 6 – 7, 2015



## 11 Ways to Create a Welcoming Front Entrance for Under \$100

*Wouldn't it be nice to approach your home's entrance with a grin instead of a grimace? Take our tips for beating a clear, safe, and stylish path to your front door.*

By: Cara Greenberg

**1. Clear the way for curb appeal.** The path to your front door should be at least 3 feet wide so people can walk shoulder-to-shoulder, with an unobstructed view and no stumbling hazards. So get out those loppers and cut back any overhanging branches or encroaching shrubs.

**2. Light the route.** Landscape lighting makes it easy to get around at night. Solar-powered LED lights you can just stick in the ground, requiring no wiring, are surprisingly inexpensive. We found 8 packs for under \$60 online.

**3. Go glossy.** Borrow inspiration from London's lovely row houses, whose owners assert their individuality by painting their doors in high-gloss colors. The reflective sheen of a royal blue, deep green, crimson, or whatever color you like will ensure your house stands out from the pack.

**Related:** Pictures of 10 Great Value-Add Exterior Paint Jobs

**4. Pretty up the view.** A door with lots of glass is a plus for letting light into the front hall -- but if you also want privacy and a bit of decor, check out decorative window film. It's removable and re-positionable, and comes in innumerable styles and motifs. Pricing depends on size and design; many available for under \$30.

A way to get the look of stained glass without doing custom work or buying a whole new door: Mount a decorative panel on the inside of the door behind an existing glass insert, \$92 for an Arts and Crafts-style panel 20" high by 11" wide.

**5. Replace door hardware.** While you're at it, polish up the handle on the big front door. Or better yet, replace it with a shiny new brass lockset with a secure deadbolt. Available for about \$60.





# 2015 REALTORS® Open House Weekend June 6 – 7, 2015



**6. Please knock.** Doorbells may be the norm, but a hefty knocker is a classic that will never run out of battery life, and another opportunity to express yourself (whatever your favorite animal or insect is, there's a door-knocker in its image).

**7. Ever-greenery.** Boxwoods are always tidy-looking, the definition of easy upkeep. A pair on either side of the door is traditional, but a singleton is good, too. About \$25 at garden centers. In cold climates, make sure pots are frost-proof (polyethylene urns and boxes mimic terracotta and wood to perfection).

**8. Numbers game.** Is your house number clearly visible? That's of prime importance if you want your guests to arrive and your pizza to be hot. Stick-on vinyl numbers in a variety of fonts make it easy, starting at about \$4 per digit.

**9. Foot traffic.** A hardworking mat for wiping muddy feet is a must. A thick coir mat can be had at the hardware store for less than \$20. Even fancier varieties can be found well under \$50.

**10. Go for the glow.** Fumbling for keys in the dark isn't fun. Consider doubling up on porch lights with a pair of lanterns, one on each side of the door, for symmetry and twice the illumination. Many mounted lights are available well under \$100.

**11. Snail mail.** Mailboxes run the gamut from kitschy roadside novelties masquerading as dogs, fish, or what-have-you to sober black lockboxes mounted alongside the front door. Whichever way you go, make sure yours is standing or hanging straight, with a secure closure, and no dings or dents. The mail carrier will thank you.

*"Visit [HouseLogic.com](http://HouseLogic.com) for more articles like this. Reprinted from [HouseLogic.com](http://HouseLogic.com) with permission of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®." Visit: <http://members.houselogic.com>*

