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I am pleased to present you with the latest issue of Life@Home. Delivered to home buyers, sellers and owners on a monthly basis, this newsletter is designed to give you the real estate information that is important to you. In each issue, you will find practical tips and articles related to buying, selling or owning a home, as well as the latest news on real estate trends. I hope that you enjoy this issue of Life@Home. Have a question -- email me at "BrokerBob@ScotlandYard.com".



Visit ["www.BobGrant.com"](http://www.BobGrant.com) and view the Manatee County MLS!

All the Right Hues

Painting is perhaps the easiest and least expensive ways to infuse your new home with your own personal style. In addition, wall color can dramatically change the look and feel of a room and it sets the stage for your rugs, furniture, artwork and accent pieces.



Here are some tips for choosing the right colors for your home:

- It is best to tackle one room at a time. There are so many colors to choose from, it can be overwhelming if you take on too much. Instead, select one room and see it through from beginning to end.

- Next, evaluate your current belongings. Determine what the overriding tones and colors are in those pieces and use that as your starting point. For instance if your rug and sofa are done in cool green colors, you will want a wall color that will accent those large (and usually more expensive) anchor pieces.

- When shopping for paint colors, bring sample swatches with you, such as a throw pillow from the couch. This will help you coordinate colors.

- Don't be afraid to ask for help. Many paint or home decorating stores offer the expertise of a design specialist. A professional can help steer you in the right direction.

- If an interior designer is not available, use design books and magazines as inspirational tools. Here you might discover a new approach, like painting one wall a different, complimentary color for a more dramatic effect. You may also consider a new painting technique, such as sponging, ragging or even a suede or linen treatment.

- Don't forget to consider paint for the room's trim work too. Neutral colors like white, cream and beige often work best for baseboards, crown moldings and doors.

- Be sure to bring paint chips home to see what they look like in the light of your own home. And before you purchase a room's-worth of paint, buy a quart and paint a small area in the room. Live with it for a few days before you make a final decision.

An Appealing Entrance

When a potential buyer visits your home, he or she begins taking mental notes the minute they step inside the front door. That is why it is especially important to pay attention to your home entryway. Even if you do not have a formal foyer or vestibule, you should treat this area with special care.



Here are some ideas on how to create a welcoming entryway:

- Make sure the area is well lit. An overhead light fixture or small table lamp will provide a warm glow. Another tip is to paint the entryway walls a soft, pale color that compliments the room it adjoins.

- If there is a coat closet, bench, hanging hooks or umbrella stand near the door, make sure each is neat and organized. Clutter in an entry way will make it seem smaller and is very likely to turn off interested buyers.

- If space allows, place a small table, lamp, a few accessories and perhaps a piece of artwork or mirror in the foyer. This will help draw attention into the room and give buyers a feeling that this is a comfortable and well-cared-for home. A small votive candle and fresh cut flowers are also nice additions. However, many Realtors @ recommend removing family photos from an entryway while a home is on the market. The reason: you want the buyer to imagine this home as his or her own.

- Remember to consider the floor too. It should be clean and in good condition. An appropriately sized, non-slippery area rug can help add warmth and interest.

Dynamite Dressing



Add some pizzazz to your Thanksgiving stuffing this year by adding one of the following ingredients: dried cranberries, chestnuts, sausage, mushrooms, pecans, garlic, or apples. Adding one of these flavors to the standard dressing ingredients is sure to please and intrigue your holiday

guests.