

Renter-Friendly DIYs

Making a house a home requires some customization, and even renters can find ways to make a space their own. Here are some projects to consider that can be undone as quickly as they were done.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

If you don't have a view that makes you say wow or just want a little more privacy, try giving your windows a stained glass effect using tissue paper and decoupage medium. Decide on a pattern, then cut it out.

Mix the decoupage medium in a ratio of nine parts water to one part medium and paint the tissue paper onto the glass. To remove, spray it with water, let it soak in, then just wipe it away.

PEEL-AND-STICK WALLPAPER

Patterns on walls are back, and wallpaper is easier to install than ever with peel-and-stick rolls that go on in a snap. Instructions for application and removal will generally depend on your manufacturer, but fol-



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low those directions precisely for easy installation and removal. If you're trying to stick to a budget or aren't sure if you'll like it, try doing just an accent wall first.

INSTALL FLOORING ON THE WALL

If you can't find a wallpaper you like or want to warm up your space, attach vinyl flooring planks to the wall with tempo-

rory strips. Anchor them with 2x2 boards.

This is a great idea for achieving a shiplap look on an accent wall, behind a TV or over a fireplace with minimum effort (or damage).

WALLPAPER IN THE KITCHEN

Create an accent wall of sorts in your kitchen by applying contact paper or peel-and-

stick wallpaper to the refrigerator or even on the countertops or backsplash. Just be prepared to change it out as it wears to keep it looking fresh.

SWITCH OUT LIGHT FIXTURES

If you're handy, swap out the standard issue light fixtures with new ones that match your style. Carefully package the old lights and all the fittings to

keep for reinstallation when you move out. If you're not so handy, consider just swapping out the pendant covers for something more enticing. Take one of the originals with you to make sure you get the right size and save the original pendant covers to put back.

CREATIVE USE OF RUGS

Use large rugs to cover up any flooring that you don't like or, if you have time, use peel-and-stick floor tile to transform the space. Test it first to make sure you can peel it up without damaging the original flooring underneath.

SWAP OUT FIXTURES

Usually, shower heads and other bathroom fixtures are a snap. It's typically as easy as unscrewing one for another. You should talk to your landlord first, though, and keep the original fixtures to reinstall after you're gone.

HANG SHELVING

For renters, square footage is a pretty common issue. Add some storage to your space by thinking vertically and hanging shelves. You can use temporary strips for lighter objects or anchors and screws for heavier shelves. Just grab a can of spackle while you're at the store so you can touch up the walls after you take them down.



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REAL ESTATE 101



HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

Second Thoughts

Before undertaking any work on your rental, check your lease. Some improvements, such as painting or using nails to hang pictures on the wall, may not be allowed or may require pre-approval by your landlord or management company.

Investment property: A property purchased to generate rental income, tax benefits or profitable resale rather than to serve as the borrower's primary residence. **SOURCE:** Federal Trade Commission

AD SPACE