



THE 2023 GUIDE TO Home Improvements

Welcome



If you're considering a home improvement project in the new year, you're in good company! A survey of nearly 4,000 homeowners from Houzz found that 23% plan to start a home improvement project in the next year. But why are so many homeowners choosing to remodel? Not only is it a great investment, but almost a quarter agree that remodeling is more affordable than buying a new home. It also allows you to customize your existing home to suit your exact needs while remaining in the neighborhood you love.

We've put together a guide to the best home improvements in 2023 so you can get inspired and join the trend.

dive in...

table of contents

01 > *outdoor designs*

- OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING AREA
- ADD A POOL
- LOW-MAINTENANCE GARDEN IDEAS
- KITCHEN GARDEN
- OUTDOOR LIGHTING

02 > *swimming pool designs*

- HOLIDAY DESTINATION INSPIRATION
- SALT WATER POOLS
- PERSONALIZE YOUR SWIMMING POOL
- PLUNGIE PERSONALIZATION CHECKLIST

03 > *bigger isn't always better*

- 3 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR BACKYARD LOOK BIGGER

04 > *pool types*

- CONCRETE POOLS
- FIBERGLASS POOLS
- VINYL-LINER POOLS

05 > *interior design trends*

- GIVE YOUR BATHROOM A FACELIFT
- DEDICATED ACTIVITY ZONES
- SMART HOMES
- BOLD PAINT COLORS
- 5 TIPS TO HELP YOU PAINT LIKE A PRO
- REVAMP YOUR KITCHEN



01

OUTDOOR DESIGNS

Leisure is the key theme for backyards in 2023, with more people optimizing their outdoor spaces for entertainment and relaxation. Here's how you can join the fun and improve your outdoor living in 2023.

Outdoor Entertaining Area

Maximize your outdoor space for entertainment by adding bench seating and a fire pit for family and friends to gather around. Although many affordable bench seating options are available, you can get creative with cinder blocks and wood pallets too.

Fancy yourself an entertainer? Outdoor kitchens are also becoming popular, allowing hosts to cook and socialize simultaneously. If you don't want to invest in a complete kitchen fit-out, why not start with a pizza oven? You could even convert one of your kitchen windows to a servery to bridge the gap between the kitchen and the outdoor area.

Add A Pool

Of course we'd recommend this! But seriously, adding a pool is one of the biggest (and best) changes you can make to your outdoor entertaining area. Starting with the pool allows you to build your outdoor space around entertainment and lifestyle — more on that later.

Low Maintenance Garden Ideas

People want to spend more time in their gardens in 2023, but less time gardening. As such, low-maintenance solutions like vertical gardens and irrigation systems are on-trend.

Homeowners are also opting for drought-resistant plants that don't require as much TLC. If you're keen to ditch the garden hose for a good book, consider succulents and other hardy plants like lavender.

Kitchen Garden

You don't need to be a fully-fledged farmer to take advantage of the kitchen garden trend. Even adding a herb garden will go a long way to making sure your dishes (and cocktails) taste delicious. If you don't have a green thumb, start with low-maintenance plants like cherry tomatoes, mint, basil, thyme, oregano, cilantro and parsley.

Outdoor Lighting

Outdoor lighting is another easy but effective way to elevate your entertaining space. Whether it's fairy lights, up-lights or strip lights, lighting solutions help create an ambiance for your outdoor area. Add lights along pathways, in garden beds or even via lit garden sculptures. What's better than art that transforms into a light installation after dark? Warm white party lights are also guaranteed to create a magical look when hung over your outdoor area.

HOT TIP

All our pools come with a multi-colored LED light — incorporate this into your overall lighting plan to make nighttime something special!

02 SWIMMING POOL DESIGNS

An outdoor home improvement measure that's sure to add value to your home is (you guessed it) a pool! Installing a pool is certainly a bigger undertaking than digging up your garden beds but the value will come back in spades.

Here are the other pool trends that you'll see everywhere in 2023.

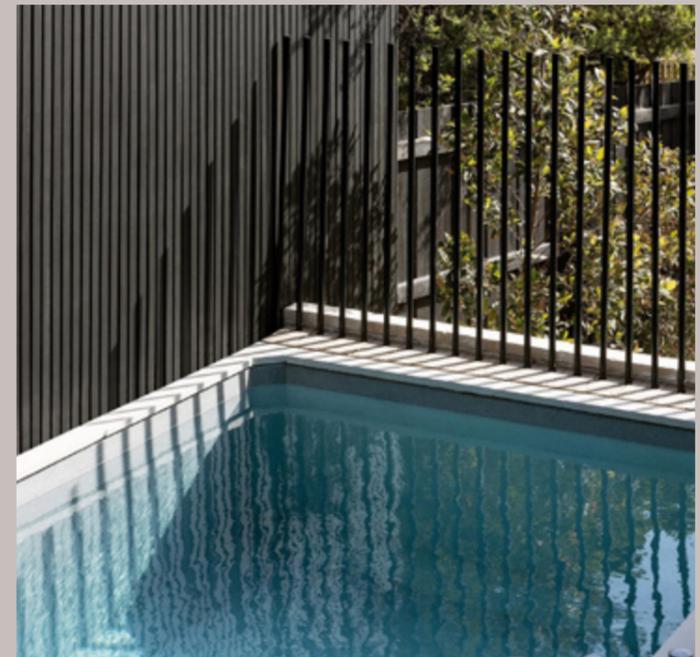
Holiday Destination Inspiration

Why not replicate your favorite holiday destination in your very own backyard? We're increasingly seeing homeowners take inspiration from popular locations like Mykonos for their pool design. You can easily achieve a beachy look by adding a pool cabana and white soft furnishings to your pool surroundings.

Choosing a light pool interior coating will also help replicate turquoise, island water. This trend aligns with our most popular interior ecoFinish shade in 2022, Kona Coast. We're predicting a rise in Blue Lagoon in 2023, so expect to see more azure water across backyards next year!

Saltwater Pools

In line with previous years, the number of pool owners choosing saltwater over chlorine for their pool is set to increase in 2023. Saltwater is becoming a popular alternative to chlorine as it's cost-effective and gentle on skin and eyes.





Personalize Your Swimming Pool

In terms of pool shape trends, there's no clear winner for 2023. Homeowners are more focused on choosing a pool shape that will integrate well into their backyard, whether square, rectangular, round or free-form.

At Plungie, our most popular model in 2022 has been the Plungie Max (it's the largest precast, prefabricated concrete pool in the world, after all) but we've seen incredible finishes with all of our models.



Pungie Personalization Checklist

Who needs a custom pool, when you have so many options for personalization? We've put together a 9-point checklist of design considerations for your Plungie.

Pick Your Plungie

Choose from the Studio, Original and Max depending on your backyard needs.

Choose Your Interior Finish

Select from six shades of ecoFinish: Kona Coast, Sahara Sand, Blue Lagoon, Mediterranean Blue, Grey Reef and French Grey.

Add A Filtration Package

We've partnered with Hayward for the supply and delivery of a standard equipment package including a pump, chlorine tab feeder, and filter.

Spoil Yourself With Add-ons

Take your pool to the next level with extras including a smart pool system, heater, and automatic pool cover.

Choose Your Installation

Whether you want to install above ground, in-ground or semi-recessed, a Plungie is the perfect solution for all installation types.

Decide On An Exterior Finish

For above ground and semi-recessed designs, choose to cover your Plungie exterior or embrace the raw concrete finish.

Add Tiles

Add waterline tiles to complement your chosen ecoFinish shade and coping tiles around the pool's perimeter.

Decide On Decking

Finish your pool area with decking or paving. Consider materials that are non-slip, heat-resistant and able to withstand exposure to pool chemicals.

Finish With Landscaping

Tie your pool, backyard and home together with landscaping. Whether you're going for a relaxed, tropical look or a well-manicured English garden, choose plants that won't litter your pool or attract bees.

HOT TIP

Want to personalize your Plungie even further? Make your pool work with your choice of power. Every Plungie can use an electric heat pump, gas or solar heating.

03

BIGGER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER

Sure, you could choose to build a bigger pool than what we offer, but why not experience the same benefits while maximizing your outdoor entertaining space. Thousands of homeowners are enjoying the best of both worlds with a Plungie right now.

Three Ways To Make Your Backyard Look Bigger

As well as opting for a smaller pool, here are three simple ways you can make your backyard feel bigger.

Hide Your Property Boundaries

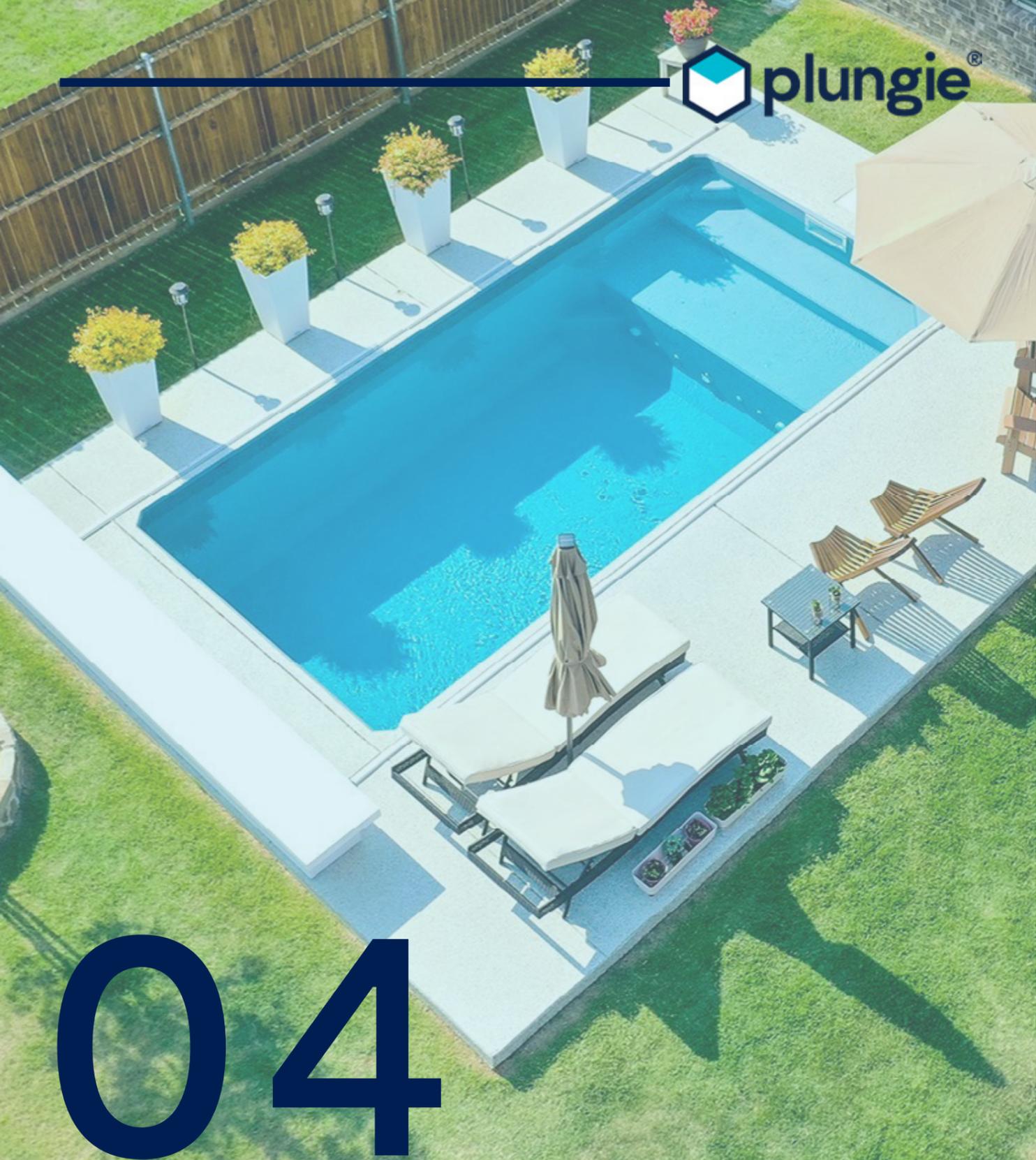
Although it's tempting to use every inch of space in your backyard for grass, planting shrubs along your property boundaries can help obscure your fenceline and make it seem further away.

Create Levels

Add depth to your backyard with different levels. This can be achieved by adding a raised deck or sunken seating area. Even raised garden beds can bring interest to a small space.

Draw The Eye Upwards

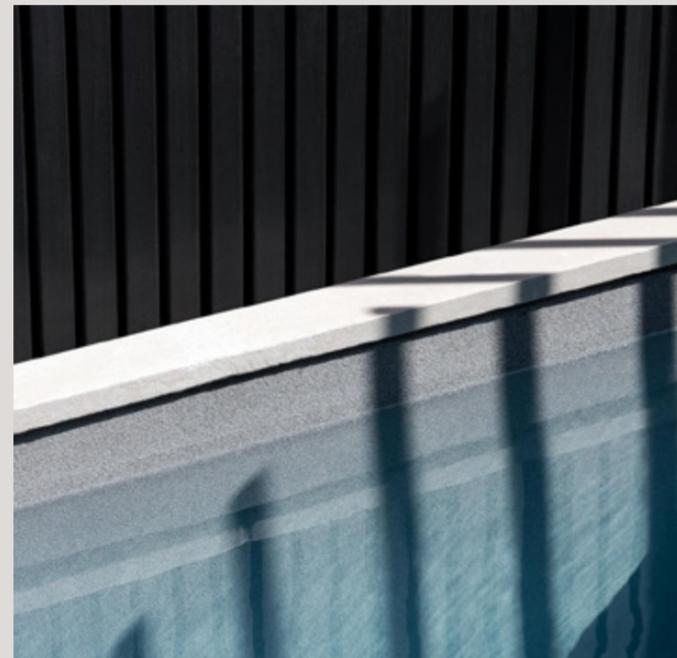
In terms of vertical backyard space, the sky's the limit. Draw sight lines upward by adding tall plants like bamboo or climbers like jasmine and bougainvillea.



04

POOL TYPES

If you decide to install a pool as part of your 2023 home improvements, the material you choose will depend on your backyard, budget and design concept. We've weighed up the pros and cons of the three most popular pool materials to make that decision easier.



Concrete Pools

You may be familiar with the many benefits of a concrete swimming pool from our blog article, but here's a recap. Concrete is the most durable pool material and can last a lifetime with the correct maintenance. Because concrete is strong, it can also withstand the pressure of being installed in-ground, above ground or semi-recessed. This gives you plenty of flexibility, especially if you live on a difficult or sloping block.

With these benefits come limitations, as traditional custom concrete pools can take months to build when you consider the curing process. This doesn't apply to Plungies, however, which are ready to install on delivery day.



Fiberglass Pools

Although fiberglass pool shells come in a wide range of shapes and sizes, they're not as durable as concrete and can pop, fade and peel over time. Once a fiberglass pool is installed, you can't personalize the interior finish or add waterline tiles either.

The installation time for a Plungie is on par with a fiberglass pool as they both arrive ready to go. Only a Plungie offers the premium features of concrete, though.



Vinyl-liner Pools

Vinyl-liner pools are the most inexpensive out of the three pool materials. As well as being cheap to install, they offer more shape variations than fiberglass pools. While the initial cost of a vinyl-liner pool is low, they are expensive throughout their lifetime.

The liner is susceptible to chemical deterioration, so more maintenance is required to ensure the pool water chemicals are balanced. Depending on how well the pool is maintained, the vinyl liner will need to be replaced roughly every 8-10 years so the maintenance costs can add up over time.



05 INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS

As much as we obsess over outdoor spaces, we know that your home's interior deserves some attention as well. Interior design trends in 2023 are geared towards creating fun, recreational spaces and making life easier with technology.



Give Your Bathroom A Facelift

If you agree that updating your bathroom is a better option than moving house, these easy but effective improvements are for you.

Update Your Hardware

Start the transformation by updating your bathroom hardware. Modernising your shower head, towel racks, cabinet handles and even your toilet brush holder is sure to have an immediate impact.

Replace Your Bathroom Mirror

Another great fix is replacing the mirror above the vanity. If you're after a unique look that won't break the bank, try hunting in thrift shops and antique stores for a vintage frame for your bathroom mirror.

Add Some Moisture-Loving Plants

No doubt you've already got an abundance of houseplants, but we recommend adding more to brighten up your bathroom. With soft light and high humidity, varieties including monstera, devil's ivy, golden pothos and aloe will thrive in this space.

Choose An Accent Color

Elevate your bathroom by choosing an accent color and carrying this through your bath towels, hand towels and bath mats. This will create a cohesive look and is definitely a step up from those old gray towels you've had since college.



Dedicated Activity Zones

Many homeowners are creating dedicated activity spaces in their homes. Whether it's a home bar, media room, library, or rumpus room, these spaces have a clear recreational purpose and offer an escape from the outside world.

Achieving this trend is easy; simply dedicate a space in your home to an activity you love. Pool room, here we come! Dedicated home offices are also here to stay in 2023 to accommodate working-from-home arrangements.

Smart Homes

With phones in our hands, pockets or close by most of the time, it's no wonder homeowners are leveraging apps to control the technology in their homes. For example, many people are utilizing security systems that can be easily monitored via their phones.

Similarly, smart WiFi light bulbs are becoming popular as homeowners can change the brightness and color using an app. To complete the transition to a smart home, consider adding a smart speaker to search the internet or control your music using your voice. With these hacks, you'll feel like you're living in the future.



Bold Paint Colors

Now's not the time to be shy with paint colors. The popularity of vibrant colors is set to skyrocket next year as people look for ways to express their creativity and make their living spaces more joyful.

Before you get out the drop sheet and paint roller, we recommend drawing inspiration from popular paint brands. For example, Benjamin Moore's Color Trends 2023 suggests several color palettes for a fresh, cohesive design.



5 Tips To Help You Paint Like A Pro

If you're keen to try painting your house interior, here are our top 5 tips for a seamless finish.

Start With Sanding

You can't achieve a seamless paint finish without a smooth surface, so start your DIY project by sanding your walls.

Use Professional Painter's Tape

There's a big difference between masking tape and painter's tape, so it's important you use the latter. Masking tape can leave behind a sticky residue and does not create a reliable seal against the paint.

Precondition Your Paint Roller

You may not have heard of this step before, but preconditioning involves cleaning your paint roller before use to remove loose fibers. Simply wash the roller with water and liquid soap to avoid these fibers ending up on your freshly painted wall.

Paint One Wall At A Time

It may seem more efficient to cut in all corners of your room before applying paint with a roller, but you can achieve a more professional finish by painting one wall at a time. Roll your paint on immediately after cutting in a wall so the cut-in sections don't have a chance to dry and will blend in with rolled sections.

Cover Your Tools In Between Coats

Prevent your brushes and rollers from drying out in between cutting in and rolling by covering your paint tray with a damp cloth. When you're finished using your roller for the day, cover it with a plastic bag to keep it fresh overnight.

Revamp Your Kitchen

As the heart of the home, the kitchen deserves some love in 2023. With these easy updates, it'll be hard to keep the family out for long.

Kitchen Cabinet Makeover

Why replace your kitchen cabinets when you can simply paint the doors and update the handles? Simply pick a shade from your chosen 2023 home color palette to ensure the kitchen aligns with the rest of your home.

Create Open Cabinet Shelving

Got a beautiful set of glassware that you'd love to show off? Remove the doors from a set of kitchen cabinets to create open cabinet shelving. Not only does this allow for easy access, but you'll be able to appreciate your kitchenware all day.

Add Strip Lighting

Add a touch of luxury with LED strip lighting under your kitchen countertops and cabinets. While you can purchase lights in many colors, warm white lights will create a warm and welcoming feel.



Now that we've given you plenty of inspiration, you can join thousands of other homeowners and get cracking with home improvement projects in 2023. If your plans involve a Plungie, contact our team for details or download a quote and info pack today.



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