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## Home-improvers looking for DIY dividends

This research is part of the annual Halifax Home Improvement Survey, a series of research pieces that are published by Halifax, highlighting home improvement trends in the UK. The survey is compiled using independent market research carried out for Halifax. Halifax, the UK's largest mortgage lender, has been conducting research into home improvement trends since 1991.

### Key findings of the Halifax research are:

- **Brits continue to look to home improvements for added value** - As house prices flatten, a quarter of homeowners (28%) planning to undertake home improvements in the next twelve months will do so specifically to add value to their houses. Almost half (44%) believe these home improvements will add up to £5,000 to the value of their property, with over one in ten (12%) believing the increase will be between £10-£25k
- **Most popular home improvements** – Redecorating (71%); garden improvements (35%); new furnishings (33%); new carpets (25%); laminate/wood flooring (22%), new bathroom (21%).
- **Green improvements on the agenda** – Almost one in five (17%) introduced energy efficiency measures into their homes as the environment acquires a growing importance
- **Trend in young developers strengthens** – FTBs and younger people are more and more involved in home improvements with almost three quarters (74%) of 18-34 claiming to have carried out home improvements in the last twelve months, up from two-thirds (68%) last year.
- **DIY devotees** – It's not all about the money though, improving is swiftly becoming a national pastime. Nearly one in six people (14%) claimed to have carried out home improvements just for fun

**Commenting on the research findings Russell Galley, Head of Mainstream Mortgages, Halifax, said:**

"In the current market, homeowners can inject value into their homes by undertaking the right home improvements. Carrying out work on your home can be rewarding but costly to correct if not executed properly. Where appropriate, consult the professionals and seek any necessary planning permission before getting started."

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## Value Added?

One in six green-fingered home improvers estimated that their work in the garden, along with any other home improvements, would have added over £10,000 to the value of their property. However, for 14% of people, home improvements are less of an investment, and more of a hobby.

Rank	Main Home Improvement Undertaken	Amount homeowners expect all improvements will have added to property		
		Up to £2,500	Between £2,500-£10,000	Over £10,000
1.	Redecorating	41%	27%	13%
2.	Garden improvements	39%	27%	16%
3.	New furnishing	36%	30%	16%
4.	New carpets	32%	31%	19%
5.	Laminate/wood flooring	33%	24%	23%
6.	New bathroom	15%	39%	29%

## Who gets their hands dirty?

More home improvements are being done by homeowners themselves than in the past. Over a quarter of respondents (26%) got stuck into their home improvements and did all the work themselves. A further third did so alongside their partners (33%). However, tradesmen remain most people's first port of call with a third of respondents calling upon their services.

More than twice as many men (39%) than women (17%) claimed to have carried out work themselves.

Who did the work	Percentage of respondents (%)
A tradesman	33
Along with my partner	33
Specialist contractor	31
Myself	26
Family and friends	13
My partner	11
DIY chain store	2

**Ends.**

### Press Office Contact:

Nathan Wallis  
Media Relations Officer  
Halifax  
01422 333416  
07890 736503  
[Nathan.Wallis@HBOSplc.com](mailto:Nathan.Wallis@HBOSplc.com)

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