

Not moving? improving

Many homeowners have taken the opportunity in recent years to carry out major and minor improvements to their properties, preferring to increase the value of their existing homes rather than entering into the volatile property market. In 2011 it looks like the trend will continue. Home refurbishment is also an opportunity to upgrade appliances, materials and fittings to the latest environmentally friendly and cost effective innovations and models. Each month, long-established St Helier company, Romerils, will be offering advice and ideas on how best to improve a home and increase the value of properties.



True colours: don't let your choice put your visitors off

If you are looking to move this spring, or are simply expecting a full house at Easter, a lick of paint is the easiest way to spruce up your home and make it seem more welcoming. But don't put your guests (or potential buyers if you are thinking of moving) off your home by the wrong choice of colour on your walls. A dreary magnolia might provide a blank canvas, but a lack of focus may mean the eye is drawn to all the wrong places. Likewise, a poor choice of a fuller colour can make even the most spacious room seem dark and small.

As well as being a popular time of year for decorating, spring brings with it a whole new range of colour and inspiration. We're moving from cooler, darker winter months into bright, lighter summer nights. But did you know that the light in this part of the world tends to have a grey tone the whole year round? So choose colours that are 'warm' to make the most of British light. You can draw attention towards – or away from – a feature in the room such as a window, fireplace, alcove or piece of art by using a complimentary colour. And if you have a fantastic old sofa, rug or picture that really takes centre stage in a room, choose colours to work with it – not compete against it. Use the colour swatches available in all good DIY stores

to find which colour most closely matches your item, then choose a colour from the same mood range and you can be confident that the colour combination will work in harmony.

'I've noticed that St Helier is not a town of shrinking violets,' says Tony from the Romerils Dulux Colour & Advice Centre, 'with some of the most popular colours being purples, reds and plum. But not everyone finds it easy choosing colours – that's why it's important to consult your supplier if you need help with colour schemes.'

One simple rule that can make all the difference in helping achieve a professional painted finish is to have smooth walls in the first place.

Any cracks, pinholes or damage will show up even more once it has been freshly painted, no matter your colour choice. For uneven walls with cracks,

bumps, nicks, gouges or other damage there are various products on the market from manufacturers such as Polycell.

'Some are even specially formulated to fill holes and cracks and restore walls to their former glory,' explains Tony, 'and are a DIYer's dream alternative to plastering.'

For more information on interior painting and wall preparation contact Tony or any of the trained staff at the Dulux Colour & Advice Centre in Dumaresq Street, St Helier.



Look what you can get when you take out a Close Finance Home Improvement Loan

£500 worth of FREE goods and services...*

For more details visit www.closefinanceci.com/improve

*All loans subject to status, terms and conditions apply.

Don't Move
IMPROVE

closefinance