



The Relo-Report

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HOTTEST HOME BUILDING TRENDS FOR 2009

A recent study identified the hottest new home trends expected for 2009 after compiling information from buyers and prospects.

Here are the top nine trends in 2009:



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Our mission is threefold:

- (1) Eliminate the stress and headaches associated with relocation,**
- (2) Provide excellent assistance, including finding one of the best, most highly qualified hand selected real estate agents for the individual or family who is relocating, through our Certified Professional Agent Network. (CPAN)™**
- (3) Reduce the costs associated with relocation by providing Free Relocation Services and discounts through our Business Alliance Advantage™ program.**

Less Square Footage: Buyers are examining their lifestyles and the most important aspects of their new homes. The result is a smaller home that maximizes the square footage. But, a smaller home does not mean sacrificing on luxury. You'll find that these homes still have expected luxury features — granite countertops, top-of-the-line appliances, upgraded trim packages and luxurious owners' baths. Even in the largest, most luxurious homes, you'll find that one room or more has been eliminated to reduce the square footage.

Room to Store: In the old days, closets were scarce. As the years have progressed, homeowners have demanded more storage space. The trend is for bigger, walk-in closets with built-in storage systems and packing islands. The idea is to avoid wasted space and maximize the square footage of the home. Built-in niches and attic storage rooms provide a purpose for otherwise unusable space.

Outdoor Living: The past few years have seen a steady rise in the popularity of outdoor living space. This trend doesn't seem to be going anywhere anytime soon. It's especially true in the South, where suitable outdoor space can be used for at least three seasons. And, many homeowners are requesting screened porches so they can enjoy the outdoors as long as possible. Others request open patio areas that feature fireplaces and built-in kitchens.

Universal Design: Features like sunken living rooms, spiral stair

On
the Inside

Going green may help
sell your home!

Things that make
you go ...hummm?

Referrals are Truly
Appreciated



cases and tall cabinets were once popular, but those days seem to be behind us. Today's homes (and likely tomorrow's) are easy to move around in, regardless of the physical limitations you or your family members might have. Wider hallways and doors, fewer stairs (and even elevators in larger homes) seem to be standard. Architects often use the phrase "universal design" to describe homes with features like these because they are comfortable for people of all ages and abilities.

Designing for Women: It's no secret that women are the driving force behind most home-buying decisions. So, it stands to reason that homes are designed around features that are important to the fairer sex. Drop zones help keep the home's main spaces free of clutter. Extra-large laundry rooms, luxurious spa-like owners' baths with inviting tubs and state-of-the-art security systems are features important to women.

Green AND Healthy Homes: Buyers are increasingly savvy to environmental friendliness as it pertains to their homes. The green movement is not only a trend, it's becoming more of "the norm." Buyers are seeking improved ways to make their homes more efficient and reduce utility costs. And, buyers are ready to go a step further. The use of paints with low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carpets that emit no or lower gas levels and

Movie Facts

Movie: ET

What American writer has had his/her stories made into more films than any other?

Edgar Allen Poe



"I'm moving out! I've got enough pennies in my piggy bank to buy a house in foreclosure."

Life Lesson of the Month: "Expecting life to treat you well because you are a good person is like expecting an angry bull not to charge you because you are a vegetarian." — Shari R. Barr

tidbits

Top 10 Cities That Have That Loving Feeling

Home may be where the heart is, but for many baby boomers, home is also where guests stop by unannounced, "to-do" lists seem to grow longer by the minute and bills crowd the mailbox waiting to be paid.

..... In our latest study, we found the top 10 cities in the United States where romance blooms for boomers—no matter what the interruption. Interestingly, Pittsburgh came out on top as the number one city where the boomer set is finding special moments for romance.

1. Pittsburgh, PA
2. Salt Lake City, UT
3. Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC
4. Providence, RI
5. Charlotte, NC
6. Hartford, CT
7. Minneapolis, MN
8. Rochester, NY
9. Dallas, TX
10. Houston, TX

Source: www.bestplaces.net

real estate facts

recycled materials on the job site all help make a healthier home. Also, a better insulated home not only saves energy, but it also keeps dangerous allergens out of the home,

thereby helping to keep your family out of doctors' offices and drug stores.

Smarter Homes: Today's home wiring includes more than standard electrical connections. Dedicated wiring for data, telephone, audio and video are standard options. In-wall speakers, intercom systems, wireless networks and options to control lighting and temperature (even when you are not at home) are highly requested options in today's high-end homes. You can even install security cameras to keep an eye on the kids when you are away ("nanny cams") or see who's at the door before you open it. It all adds up to convenience, safety and peace of mind for today's luxury home buyer.

The Kitchen Still Brings the Heat: It's impossible to do a hot home trends list and ignore the kitchen. It remains one of the most important areas in the home, and luxury buyers continue to seek ample space and storage, restaurant-quality appliances and high-end finishes. But now, utilitarian extras such as recycling organizers, specialized storage options and walk-in pantries are requirements. And, islands are still a craze and will remain so, although the best are unique and are much like pieces of furniture. They tend to not match the kitchen's cabinetry, making them true standouts.

Going Green May Help Sell Your Home -----

It's becoming the buzz word in housing — “green” homes are what many buyers are interested in these days. According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), as much as 90 percent of home buyers think that energy efficiency is a very important factor when shopping for a home. These same buyers are also very interested in environment-friendly features including having housing close to parks, public transportation, and well-designed neighborhoods with sidewalks.

The National Association of Home Builders Remodelers (NAHBR) — recommends the following top ways to increase energy efficiency.

Install appropriate insulation in area to be remodeled.

Install high-efficiency windows instead of those that minimally meet the energy code.

Seal all exterior penetrations in areas being remodeled.

Purchase only Energy Star®-rated appliances.

Install only low-flow water fixtures.

Upgrade to at least an Energy Star®-rated water heater, or better yet, a tankless water heater.

Purchase the highest efficiency HVAC system you can afford and make sure it is correctly sized for the area you want to condition.

Things that make you go...

“Hmmm”

Weird Trivia

- ❖ The creator of the comic book character, Wonder Woman also invented the lie detector.
- ❖ Kangaroo Rats don't need to drink water.
- ❖ The word “maverick” came into use after Samuel Maverick, a Texan refused to brand his cattle. Eventually any unbranded calf became known as a Maverick.

Quote of the Month:

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.”
— *Anonymous*

But going green can seem like a huge challenge. There are so many products and things to consider. And if you're selling your home you may wonder if going green is going to give you more or less green in your bank account. Consider this, there are approximately 125 million single-family homes in the U.S. but most were built before energy-efficiency developments, which means if your home has newly renovated green remodeling, it can be a buyer's dream. Featuring your green renovations when you list your home for sale could give you that added value and unique market advantage.

How to get started. Deciding to make your home green doesn't have to be overwhelming nor do you have to make the entire house eco-friendly. Try things like installing energy-efficient lighting such as compact fluorescents. Also, change out any old appliances that are using up lots of energy.

Once you've done this, compare your utility bills so that you can show the reduction to your real estate agent. Your agent can then point out the energy-savings to potential buyers. With utility bills on the rise, any savings can be a major influence on buyers.

Get rid of energy-hog appliances. Sometimes homeowners don't want to replace an appliance because they are selling their home, but replacing an energy-hog appliance can be a cost-effective way to increase the value of your home. Energy Star-certified appliances use less energy and are more efficient to operate.

Don't forget to sell what you can't see. Insulation isn't something homeowners often think to promote, but, if your home is well insulated, it can be a big selling point.

Make it a healthy home. Going green isn't just about saving money; it's also about preserving the earth and our lives. Many people suffer from allergies, asthma, and chemical sensitivities. For instance, if you have placed pollen screens on your home, be sure to promote that feature.



- ❖ Almost half the newspapers in the world are published in the United States and Canada!
- ❖ There wasn't a single pony in the Pony Express, just horses.
- ❖ In Australia children may not purchase cigarettes, but they may smoke them.
- ❖ It is illegal to display an unclothed mannequin in a store window in La Crosse, Wisconsin.
- ❖ In Vermont, women must obtain written permission from their husbands to wear false teeth.
- ❖ In New Hampshire you cannot sell the clothes you are wearing to pay off a gambling debt.





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or across
the nation....
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you home*



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*One Family
At A Time*

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