

An Article of Interest 10 Driveway Dress-up Ideas

Your driveway is one of the first features visitors notice about your home. By making it eye-catching and instilling it with character, you can present a warm, inviting feeling to welcome your visitors.

These 10 ideas can give your driveway a refreshing makeover that complements your home and personality:

1. **Add Foliage.** Planting trees and bushes along your driveway creates an interesting border that's sure to attract attention. By mixing plant types, you can add a beautiful array of color and fragrance to your yard.
2. **Install a Trellis.** A trellis provides a wonderful focal point for your home and can create the illusion of a larger home. You can plant fast-growing vines around the structure to create a beautiful green wall with ample character.
3. **Create a Brick Driveway.** If you're up for a completely new look, change the paving material. Although brick entails more work—and money—than other choices, it creates an elegant entryway to your home and can be purchased in many colors and sizes to match most any color scheme. Lay the bricks in a variety of designs, including circles, waves or checkerboard to personalize your driveway.
4. **Plant a Privacy Bed.** If you share your driveway with a neighbor, plant shrubs and flowers between the entryways to create a small but colorful privacy wall.
5. **Install Lighting.** Landscape lighting creates an impressive effect that can alter the look and feel of your home. You can insert lights to resemble a runway design that borders the sides of your driveway, or stagger two or more lamp styles for a more creative approach.
6. **Build a Rock Garden.** Who says your lawn has to meet your driveway? Remove a two-foot-wide strip of grass along both sides of your driveway and fill the areas with colorful rocks. Mix big rocks with small rocks for variety.
7. **Construct a Retaining Wall.** If you have the room, a retaining wall along your driveway can add character and old-world charm to your home. Use railroad ties, telephone poles, bricks or stones to construct a wall that suits your desires.
8. **Design a Grass Driveway.** If you have a small front yard with limited color, make your driveway your lawn.
9. **Add Gravel.** Changing the look of your driveway can be as simple as adding gravel. There are a variety of colors to select from, including blue-gray for a comfortable, family-style feeling, a red that generates natural appeal, or white for a more formal look.
10. **Redesign the Shape.** The ultimate driveway makeover involves completely changing the contour of your driveway. Add a curve or two to create the look of an inviting country road. A circular driveway makes it easy for visitors to come and go and provides a great centerpiece location inside the circle for an eye-catching water fountain or statue.

No matter what design you implement, a well-crafted driveway generates wonderful curb appeal and increases the value of your home.

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