

# PUT YOUR TAX REFUND BACK TO WORK AND INTO YOUR HOME

**8:30 - 8:36**

Are you one of the lucky millions of Americans that is expecting a tax refund this year? What better way to spend your tax refund than improving the value of your home.

First of all, remember that a refund isn't a gift. It's an interest-free loan that you gave to Uncle Sam, and now he's paying you back.

Select home improvements can qualify for a tax credit until December 31, 2010. Boost your tax refund next year by improving your home this year. As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a Federal Tax Credit of up to 30% of the purchase price with a maximum credit of \$1,500 is offered for qualifying improvements (windows, insulation, doors, furnace, etc.) to non-business properties. The credit is combined over 2009 and 2010 for qualifying and eligible products purchased and installed from the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010.

## **Top 10 Tips to Use Your Income Tax Refund for Home Improvement**

Home improvement doesn't have to be expensive. If you're getting a some money back on your tax returns, one great way to spend that money might be to do some simple home repairs. Most small projects that make a big impact are actually relatively cheap and easy to do. And by spending a little money towards improving the look of your home – you can really increase your home's perceived value when it comes time to sell! If you're among the millions of Americans who are getting money back on their tax returns, here are ten great ways you can use part of that towards improving your home.

**Paint.** Yes, it's that simple. Paint usually costs under \$50, but can make a dramatic improvement to your home's appeal. So, strip off the old wallpaper and sand off the walls for fresh coat of paint. Keep in mind though, that if you're looking to sell your home soon, neutral colors are better for potential buyers.

**Yard work.** Yes people are coming to see your house when you want to sell it, but curb appeal makes a huge difference on first impressions. Mowing, weeding, and growing some basic plants are all cheap but time consuming projects that will contribute to a better