

# YOUR HOME

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TIPS AND TRENDS TO HELP MAXIMIZE HOME BUYING AND SELLING

## LIVING COLOR

The leading expert in color, Pantone, Inc., has made it official: Turquoise is the “it” color for 2010. But before you deck the house from top to bottom in the gemstone hue, consider the other latest color trends.

Behr paint company says neutral is still in — think light colors such as grays, camels and off-whites. Experts suggest buying bigger furniture such as sofas or armchairs in these safe colors, which never truly go out of style. Complement neutrals with aqua and gold tones, but stay away from darker browns, which are becoming passé.

While monochromatic schemes are still versatile and dependable, HGTV says the real winners in the color game right now are bold jewel colors such as ruby red or emerald green, and the brighter the better — especially if it’s a purple hue. Experts advise pairing these daring tones with a smoky charcoal or a softer black to give a room a vintage feel.

Going green and getting back to nature is a major trend, too. Earthier tones, such as sand or yellow-greens, are perfect for living rooms or kitchens. But going back to your roots doesn’t just mean dipping into Mother Earth’s favorite colors. Decorators say Asian-inspired or tribal patterns are adorning decorative elements as consumers look to get the most bang for their buck. Think pillows, area rugs or murals as key items this season.



TOOGA/GETTY IMAGES

## APP ORCHARD

Buying or selling your house? There’s an app for that. Well, not exactly, but there’s plenty of high-tech help available to guide you through the process.

The **iZillow** app gives you access to data on more than 80 million homes, including square footage and an estimate of fair market value. Take a drive around your possible new neighborhood and see home values pop up on your phone with real-time real estate info.

Get real-time mortgage rates from hundreds of lenders nationwide with the **Mortgage Marvel** app. Use it to compare rates and fees — prices reflect transaction-related pricing adjustments, such as loan amount, loan-to-value ratio and property type — and view disclosure information for all rates. When you’re ready, you can select a lender, fill out an application and be approved.

The **RulerPhone** app lets you use your iPhone as a tape measure to see if your couch will fit in your prospective new home. Place any credit-card-sized card next to an object, take a picture with the phone and align your image with the card placeholder displayed on-screen. A ruler will be displayed, allowing you to adjust the measurements with the drag of a finger.

The **ExpertVideo: Home Repair** app brings valuable home repair how-to videos to the palm of your hand. More than 20 videos are available, covering how to repair concrete steps, paint kitchen cabinets or patch a drywall hole. Still have questions after watching? A moderated discussion panel gives you the answers.

Keep home improvements and routine maintenance tasks organized with the **Homeowner Calendar** app, featuring a calendar of monthly tasks, such as checking smoke alarms, cleaning air filters or cleaning your gutters. Alerts let you know when tasks are coming up, and the application allows for custom additions.

Find all these apps at [www.apple.com/iphone/appstore](http://www.apple.com/iphone/appstore).



## fast fact >> >> >> >>

The Labrador Retriever has held the top spot for Most Popular Dog in America for the past 18 years



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