

Curb Appeal

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Tami Eilers, a landscape designer at McDonald Garden Center in Hampton, has some suggestions for giving a home some instant curb appeal.

Front door. Consider the front door the focal point and give it fresh paint in a color that is harmonious with the façade and shutters. Keep the porch debris free. House numbers, kick plates and door knobs should be clean and in good condition. The front door mat should be new and a welcoming sight.

Lawn and beds. Ninety percent of Hampton Roads front yards consist of mulch beds and turf grass areas. Green grass and brown mulch with well-defined bed lines are always more appealing. Keep 3 inches of mulch to deter weeds thus creating a neatly maintained look. To emphasize a well-maintained look, place a 4-inch “v” trench between turf and mulched areas; use large arching curves to define your beds.

High impact color. Masses of colorful annuals at the base of the porch help to pull the eye to the front door. This can also be achieved with colorful container gardens on the porch, as well.

Shrubs. Never allow shrubs to grow in front of windows; overgrown shrubs age a home and reduce its perceived size.

Walkways. Wide, sweeping, level walkways set an inviting stage for guests arriving at your home. A four- to six-foot width is usually recommended for front walks. Walks should be a complimentary color and pattern to your home's architecture.

The center is located at 1139 W. Pembroke Ave.; call 722-7463.