

United States Census Bureau

How Do We Know?

Home Improvements

When faced with a choice, many homeowners decide to improve their homes, rather than move. They modernize the kitchen, replace the roof, finish the basement, add a bathroom, or make their homes more energy efficient. The American Housing Survey (AHS), jointly administered by the Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, tracks home improvements as well as a variety of other housing topics. According to the AHS, “home improvements” exclude “routine maintenance”, which is defined as regular maintenance activities necessary for the preventative care of the structure, property, and fixed equipment items.

### **Homeowners Spent \$359 Billion (During 2009 – 2011)**

Owners spent a median of \$3,200 on improvements to their homes. Shown below are the **median** expenditures for selected projects.

Roofing \$4,559

Bedrooms \$2,500

Bathroom Remodels \$2,432

Doors/Windows \$1,200

Kitchen Remodels \$5,000

Recreation Rooms \$3,000

Flooring/Paneling/Ceiling \$1,200

HVAC \$3,600

Garage \$15,000

Patio/Terrace/Detached Deck \$2,000

### **Well Over Half Made Improvements**

76.1 Million Total Owner-Occupied Housing Units

43.7 Million Homeowners Made Improvements (57 %)

### **Almost 1 in 4 of Those Made Energy Efficiency Improvements**

10.4 Million made Energy Efficiency Improvements (24 %)

**Disaster Repairs**

Number of Occupied Housing Units

Tornado/Hurricane 606,000

Flood 229,000

**Top Improvements Made to Units**

Of the 43.7 million owner –occupied units with improvements

Appliances/Major Equipment 35 %

Flooring/Paneling/Ceiling 32 %

Windows and Doors 20 %

**Many Projects Are Done by Homeowners**

44 million of 119 Million Projects

Professionals 63 %

Do-it-Yourselfers 37 %

**Improvements Varied Widely in Cost****Total Expenditures**

Roofing \$43.7 Billion

Kitchen Remodels \$35.7 Billion

HVAC \$34.0 Billion

Flooring/Paneling Ceiling \$33.2 Billion

Windows/Doors \$24.1 Billion

Bathroom Remodels \$23.1 Billion

Patio/Terrace/Detached Deck \$13.4 Billion

Recreation Room \$3.5 Billion

**Number of Projects**

Roofing 7.5 Million

Kitchen Remodels 3.7 Million

HVAC 9.8 Million

Flooring/Paneling/Ceiling 18.8 Million

Windows/Doors 8.9 Million

Bathroom Remodels 5.0 Million

Patio/Terraced/Detached Deck 3.5 Million

Recreation Room .5 Million

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2011 American Housing Survey

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United States Department of Commerce

Economic and Statistics Division

U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. Department Of Housing And Urban Development

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