

Essentials

Before you get ready to sell, know your options.

Welcome to the Select Savers Club! The Select Savers Club (SSC) is a not-for-profit club designed to educate and empower its members with financial knowledge. We are committed to helping our members achieve their financial goals with information on spending, saving, borrowing, and managing money and debt wisely. Membership is open to anybody with a

desire to learn about financial matters, savings and the wise use of credit.

In This Issue: Before you put your house up for sale, make sure you know your options. The featured article below provides homeowners with other options in lieu of selling. So whether you're a homeowner actively looking to sell or just considering the possibility, read on for more options.



Ride Out the Housing Market with Smart Upgrades

Do you have visions of "SOLD" signs dancing in your head? If your house has been lingering on the market for a while or if you're planning to list your property soon—options are available. Consider upgrading your home to make it more comfortable for you now and more appealing to buyers down the road.

Best Upgrades for the Dollar

Each year, Remodeling Magazine releases the "Cost vs. Value Report," which summarizes remodels and upgrades that offer the highest return on investment as rated by the nation's Realtors®. For 2007, exterior and replacement projects topped the national averages with recovery rates over 80% including upscale siding replacement (88%), wood deck addition (85%) and wood window replacement (81%). Minor kitchen remodels also scored high with an 83% return.*

Results are also broken down by region,

so you can see that a minor kitchen remodel in Des Moines might not fetch as much as a similar upgrade in San Francisco. Check out your region's highlights at www.costvsvalue.com before you call the contractor.**

Upgrade and Stay a While

Some people put their homes on the market due to a change in their family or living situation. In a tough market, it might make sense to remodel your existing home to fit your new lifestyle and stay put.

Empty Nester? If your kids have flown the coop, it might be time to move from kid-friendly to adult-focused. Consider reconfiguring your living space for pampering by upgrading to a four-star chef's kitchen (78.1% return) or building the master suite of your dreams (69% return). Ditch the old swing set, and turn your backyard into a personal oasis.

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Finance Your Upgrade with Your Home's Equity

If you've decided to stay in your current home while the housing market settles—and an upgrade makes sense—consider tapping into your home's equity to finance your projects. Home equity loans can work well if you're looking at a large one-time expense. You borrow one lump sum, and then pay the loan back over a set period of time. If you're looking to take on a variety of projects, consider drawing on a home equity line of credit for revolving expenses.

Using your home's equity to finance your upgrade is smart financially, too. Competitive interest rates and tax advantages* give home equity loans and lines of credit an edge over credit cards and personal loans.

* Consult your tax advisor.

AT A GLANCE

Annual Meeting

- The 2nd Annual Meeting of the Select Savers Club (SSC) will take place on Wednesday, April 30, 2008. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. (ET) at SSC Headquarters in Purchase, NY. All members are invited to attend.

Meeting of the Membership

■ 3rd Quarter

Wednesday, August 27, 2008
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. (ET)
Location to be determined.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- SelectSavers.org
- quorumfcu.org
- PracticalMoneySkills.com
- ftc.gov/ftc/consumer.htm
- SmartAboutMoney.org
- TomorrowsMoney.org

NEWS & UPDATES

2008-2009 Board of Directors

Elections for the 2008-2009 Board of Directors will take place at the Annual Meeting on April 30, 2008. Directors are elected annually for a term of one year. All members are eligible to run for election. If you are interested in being nominated, please e-mail us at info@SelectSavers.org before Monday, April 21, 2008.

This is your chance to get involved—we hope to see you there!

Ride Out the Housing Market with Smart Upgrades (cont...)

Growing Family? Perhaps an addition makes sense. The Remodeling report shows an average return of 73.9% for two-story additions—so you might be able to stay in the neighborhood you know and love, with enough room for baby and more.

Going Green? If you're looking for greener living quarters, you're in luck. You can upgrade paint, carpet, wood flooring, toilets, appliances and more with eco-friendly products—often for less money than conventional materials and fixtures. Breathe easy, because going green can improve indoor air quality and help save on your utilities.

Upgrade to a Win-Win Situation

If you're in a situation to ride out the tight housing market conditions today, ponder a remodeling project or two. Your upgrades can provide for a better life now and give you an edge and a bigger return when the time is right to sell.

* Estimated figures based on resale value in current market.

** Web site provided for information only. No endorsement is implied.

Source:
Priority Publications, March 2008

SAVINGS 101: Small Changes Translate to **BIG** Savings

Most of us are guilty of splurging now and then. But if you have a financial goal—big or small—making a concerted effort to save money and plug spending leaks can make a big difference in how much you're able to set aside for your goal.

Don't venture into saving thinking you have to go big. Start out small by setting a realistic amount based on your income and expenses. How much can you comfortably set aside? Once you realize how easy it is to save a little, you may find that you're inspired to save even more.

Here are some ideas to help you "find" money to save:

- Pack your lunch. If you spend \$7 per day during the workweek, you're spending a total of \$140 a month!

- Prepare meals in advance on week-ends or nights when you have more time and freeze them. This will help you avoid ordering dinner out on busy nights.

- Empty your wallet and pockets of loose change every day into a jar then cash it in when it's full.

Another way to help boost your savings is to set up automatic deposits into a savings account each week, payday, or month. This way the money is saved before you have the urge to spend it.

Don't put off saving any longer—the sooner you start, the sooner you'll reach your goal.

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SELECT SAVERS CLUB INFORMATION

Select
Saversclub

This newsletter is published quarterly for members of Select Savers Club, Inc.

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