



# happy homes monthly

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CynthiaHash.com  
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## Four Quick and Affordable Home DIY Projects

Who says you have to spend a fortune to improve your lifestyle? Here are four easy life hacks to make being at home and out and about a little easier and more fun.

**Easy T-Shirt Grocery Bags.** Even in super-green places, plastic bags are still a go-to option for produce and groceries, especially if shoppers are stopping by the store unexpectedly. Instead, make your own reusable produce bags from old t-shirts, which take very minimal sewing. With the simple application of a thread and needle, your old t-shirts can be kept in your car or bag for easy use.

### Recharge Without Adding Clutter.

Let's face it, power cords aren't the most attractive features to have lying out on a counter or cabinet, so get creative with your drawer space. Find an old drawer with divided storage, like the kinds used in kitchen drawers. Just drill a hole through the back of a dresser and you have a hidden charging station for your smart phones, music players and other portable electronics.

**Update Your Hardware.** You don't have to do an expensive remodel of your kitchen in order to freshen it up. Simply spend a few bucks to replace factory-issue handles and pulls with more modern designs that show off your personal taste. Sleek modern hardware can be found at stores like Restoration Hardware, or scope out antique shops to find vintage handles for a unique, eclectic design.

**Plug Up Your Holes.** We all make mistakes. Whether you got a little crazy putting up pictures when you moved in or are just tired of looking at dings around your home, getting rid of holes and blemishes is a worthwhile project. Using a putty knife and drywall repair compound, you can easily repair nail holes and other minor scuffs in your walls. For larger holes, use an adhesive patch with an all-purpose drywall compound, which may need to dry overnight. Use existing paint to paint over your patch projects, or visit a paint store with a sample to help match up the colors of your home.



## Valentine's Heart Cookie Recipe

### Ingredients

- 2/3 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 (16 ounce) can vanilla frosting
- Food Coloring



### Instructions

**Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.**

**Cook time: 6 minutes.**

1. Beat butter in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add sugar, baking powder, and salt. Beat until combined, scraping the sides of the bowl occasionally. Beat in the egg, milk, and vanilla until combined. Beat in as much of the flour as you can with the mixer. Using a wooden spoon, stir in any remaining flour. Divide dough in half. If necessary, cover and chill dough about 30 minutes or until easy to handle.
2. Roll half the dough at a time between two sheets of parchment paper to 1/8- to 1/4-inch thickness. Using a 2 1/2-inch heart-shape cookie cutter, cut out cookie shapes, re rolling dough as needed until all the dough is cut out. Place shapes 1 inch apart on prepared cookie sheets.
3. Bake 6 to 8 minutes or until edges are firm and bottoms are very light brown. Transfer the parchment paper with baked cookies to wire racks and let cool. Once cooled, slide the parchment paper onto a work surface.
4. Tint frosting as desired with food coloring. Frost cookies with one color and use another color to pipe a message over the frosted cookies.

*Recipe courtesy of allrecipes.com*

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