

The improvement and design trends that defined our homes for the last quarter century

For the last 25 years Checkatrade has connected homeowners to quality trades to realise countless home improvement and interior design trends. But what did our survey of 2,000 UK homeowners reveal as the **nation's favourite trends**?



1

Granite worktops

28%

Homeowners have fallen in love with granite over the last twenty-five years. Granite worktops offer both durability and versatility without the price tag of marble, this material is unlikely going to go out of fashion any time soon.

2

Minimalism

21%

British homeowners will have embraced a 'less is more' approach at some point in their lives. The minimalist aesthetic is typically open and light-filled spaces, using neutral palettes and space saving furniture to ensure an uncluttered way of living.

3

Floating shelves

17%

From being an interior design statement to a practical storage solution in tight spaces, floating shelves are a staple in many British homes. Simple to install and not taking up much space, it's easy to see why they're so popular.

4

Parquet flooring

15%

Often the answer to help inject a bit of luxury into a home, parquet flooring creates a timeless aesthetic that is both classic and contemporary.

5

Feature walls

14%

Feature walls have evolved over the last 25 years. From bold colours, patterned wallpaper, through to the most recent trend of wall panelling, a feature wall or accent wall can draw the eye and act as a focal point no matter the room.

6

Exposed brickwork

14%

The only design trend that appears on both the favourite and most-regretted lists. Some people love the design feature for adding atmosphere and texture, while others will avoid and prefer a plastered wall in its place. Whichever your preference, the trend is here to stay.

7

Hygge / cosy

12%

Popularised in 2016/2017, the Danish 'Hygge' concept took the world by storm as people looked to add cosiness and comfort into their lives and homes. From throws, cushions, and plants to muted and pastel tones; Brits embraced the concept with open arms.

8

Spa bathtubs

9%

Spa bathtubs have shaped bathroom trends in recent years. Like Hygge, these are all about creating a retreat - for homeowners.

9

Beige walls

8%

A surprising entry - or is it? While not considered 'trendy' by many, its immediate warmth and cosiness draws so many homeowners back to the colour palette.

10

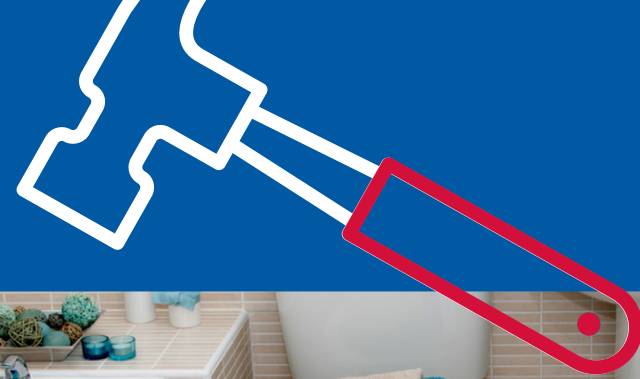
Hot tub gazebo

8%

Hot tubs experienced a revival during the pandemic. Adding a gazebo over a hot tub transforms it into a chic focal point and makes it useable all-year round.

The trends we left behind

Whether you have stepped foot on linoleum flooring or tried wall stencilling, these are just some of the **home improvement faux pas** we'd rather forget.



1

Carpeted bathrooms

40%

Has there ever been a design trend more universally loathed than a carpeted bathroom? This divisive trend is unlikely to pick up any time soon with homeowners today opting for tiles and floorboards underfoot.

2

Textured ceilings

32%

A hangover from the 70s but still left in place well into the noughties, if you're renovating an older property, chances are you'll find a textured ceiling. Outdated today, the 'fifth wall' will now often be treated with a plastered ceiling instead.

3

Dark wood panelling

23%

While wood panelling is back in vogue today, homeowners are instead opting for brighter colours to add texture, depth, and interest to a wall.

4

Animal print

21%

A firm favourite in the 90s, animal print in the home closely mirrored what was being seen in the fashion pages. From curtains, wallpaper, cushions to throws, many wish to see this trend stay in the 90s, never to see light again.

5

Sponge walls

15%

Popular in the late 90s and early 00s, 'sponging' was a quick and easy way many homeowners added texture to their walls as well as hide imperfections. However, it has since drifted away in popularity with homeowners reverting to other techniques such as wallpapering.

6

Wall stencils

14%

Like sponging, adding a wall stencil was seen as a cost-effective way to transform a wall. However, with their intricate patterns and designs, wall stencils may not align with the minimalist aesthetic that many people prefer today.

7

Exposed brickwork

13%

Although considered by some to be a stylish, understated look, the indoor-industrial design created by exposed brickwork is not to everyone's taste.

8

Linoleum flooring

12%

When you think of linoleum it might evoke memories of school classrooms or of a grandparent's kitchen. The affordable flooring option once favoured in many homes around the country is now being overlooked by other trends including parquet flooring.

9

Neon lighting

12%

Carpe diem! For many this design trend is over. Better suited to business signage, not the home.

10

Tile countertops and wall panelling

11%

In joint 10th place is tile countertops and wall panelling.

Once a common sight in kitchens in the 90s, tile countertops were thanks to be affordable and easy to install. However, thanks to grout stains, homeowners soon reverted away from tile countertops.

Up until recently wall panelling was a popular home improvement trend, given its budget-friendly options and easy to install method. However, the trend has since fallen out of favour when it became too common.