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10 DIY Projects for Your Basement

NEW YORK ([MainStreet](#)) -- Unfinished basements tend to be the area of the house that is the most difficult to renovate. After all, no one wants to spend time in a room with cements floors, dim lighting or musty odors, and renovating a basement to mirror your living room is undoubtedly a major expense. So *MainStreet* asked the design pros to weigh in and offer some [inexpensive](#) DIY projects to spruce up the basement.

From flooring to painting to lighting, these projects along with a few weekend's worth of work will completely transform your basement.

1. Paint

Depending on how unfinished your basement is will determine how large a paint job the area will need.

"Finished basements with drywall and carpeting can be painted as any other room within the home," says Joe Kowalski, training manager at [Glidden](#).

However, for unfinished basements with cement floors and walls made of concrete or cinder block, Kowalski offers these tips:

- Use paint with an eggshell or semi-gloss finish. Primer is not needed on cinder block or concrete walls
- Apply two coats of paint to walls that have already been painted. If the walls are bare, thinning the first coat of paint will allow for better penetration into the wall. Apply second coat at full strength
- As for brushes and rollers, use a ½" – ¾" nap roller; 2" – 3" brush for cut in

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