



**Small area rug for kitchen or bathroom**  
(21 inches by 34 inches, \$11.97)

**Creative repurpose:** Duct-tape six or more together and *voilà* — a rug that's sturdy enough for a child's room. "When you're trying to find that specific size, you can make it yourself," Hazard says. And when ice cream dribbles on one of the rectangles, "you can take it apart" and toss only the soiled piece in the wash.



**Plastic wastebasket**  
(\$4.97)

**Creative repurpose:** Mount three or more on the wall as storage bins for toys. Grab the handle, "pour out the toys, and when it's time to clean up, you scoop them up and hang up" the buckets, Hazard says. The plastic means they're indestructible, and kids can customize them with decals or stickers.



Photos by Todd Platt, USA TODAY

**Man about home:** Painting brings instant change, but Roger Hazard has less drastic ways of transforming a space.

# Primer on 'repurposing'

## Designer gives new meaning to common items

By Olivia Barker  
USA TODAY

A towel rack is a towel rack is a towel rack. Except in the hands of decorating guru Roger Hazard, when it's a chic and clever means of stowing magazines in the bathroom. Ditto a piece of crown molding. Seen another way — Hazard's way — it's a cheap yet crafty method of framing a mirror.

Finding interesting and alternative uses for everyday items: It's called creative repurposing in interior design circles. And it's a skill that Hazard is highly suited to: He stars in two A&E shows, *Sell This House*, about staging your home at a minimum price for maximum profit, and the upcoming

*Making It*, in which Hazard trawls big-box retailers such as Love's and Target in search of cost-effective means of setting up a new home, without compromising style.

"If you're trying to redesign a room and have a tight budget," Hazard says, "don't overlook the sawdusted shelves of home improvement stores for decorating ideas."

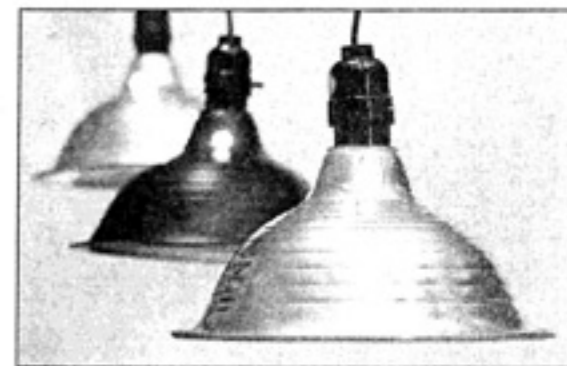
With that in mind, USA TODAY asked Hazard, a brawny, goateed guy known as the body builder of home design, to hunt the aisles of the Home Depot in downtown Manhattan for relatively pedestrian items that, with a little ingenuity, could be transformed into oh-so-much more.

Amid the paint cans and power tools, here's some of what Hazard's eye envisioned.



**Flat Roman shade** (\$64.98)

**Creative repurpose:** Mount a drapery rod above a bed and suspend one or two shades, depending on the width of the bed, for an instant headboard. Using linen or a rich tapestry creates the look of an upholstered headboard, "which is so popular now," Hazard says.



**Clamp light** (\$5.97)

**Creative repurpose:** Use colorful, heat-resistant spray paint to turn these into festive pendant lamps for a child's room (hang them from cup or swag hooks mounted to the ceiling). Or screw in colored bulbs to illuminate and enliven a party, instead of the now-standard twinkle lights. "Stagger the cord lengths for fun," Hazard says.



**Mailbox** (\$19)

**Creative repurpose:** Discreetly and cleanly get magazines organized and off the bathroom floor. "With the humidity of the bathroom, the metal protects magazines," Hazard says. And the lid keeps prying guests' eyes away

from what you're reading.