

# A novel way to spend your rebate from the Federal Government

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By now you've probably heard something about the Economic Stimulus Program recently proposed by George W. Bush and the Federal Government. The House has overwhelmingly passed a \$146 billion aid package that includes rebates of \$600-\$1,200 for most taxpayers. The plan would send at least some rebate to anyone with at least \$3,000 in income, with more going to families with children (an additional \$300 per child) and less going to wealthier taxpayers (Those earning \$75,000 or less and couples with incomes of \$150,000 or less, but a partial rebate would go to individuals earning up to \$87,000 and couples earning up to \$174,000. The caps are higher for people with children.).

Instead of running off to the local discount or department store, why not consider "investing" your rebate in your most important asset – **YOUR HOME**. Home Improvements, whether for function or just aesthetic, have long been viewed as good investments with Consumer Tax Credits and other incentives offered.

"We've already seen some signs of growth in this segment of our business", says Jason DeMarchi, Managing Partner of Adding Value in Cumming. "There are many reasons to keep your home updated and it doesn't always have to cost nearly as much as you might think. We offer a couple of very affordable products scalable to almost any budget."

Those of us that are fortunate enough to own our home have a significant amount invested in that asset. When the government sends us money to 'pump up the economy', why not enhance that investment, enjoy the beauty of something new and benefit in the long run. In other words, why not consider an upgrade to your home?

Some of the areas for the 'rebate' are those that you can enjoy and that enhance the overall value of your home, each within the amount proposed by the government. Although not all inclusive, you might consider a project from the following list, all of which will add value to your home.

**Window Treatments** - Are those shades, shutters or coverings looking dull and faded? Consider some high-quality 2 inch faux wood blinds, matched to your interior and exterior colors. The professional grade products are moisture, heat and fade resistant, have a high UV rating and will be something you will use and enjoy each day. A professionally installed product enhances the look of your home for you (inside) and your community (outside).

**Door Hardware** - Do those old shiny brass plated round knobs look a bit outdated? You should check out the lines of levered handles in satin nickel or oil rubbed bronze finishes. New front door hardware and coordinating door hardware throughout the home, really makes a statement. You use the doors every day and will be pleased with your smart choice to upgrade. Remember, one of the first impressions of most visitors to your home is the front door.

**Garage Spaces** - In many homes, this is the largest single space and perhaps the most underutilized. We park our vehicles and store our stuff and almost always wish we had more room or a better way to deal with all the things we have. This is where a professional grade garage floor resurfacing and organizer system comes in handy. An epoxy finish, that is 100% solids versus the roll on material, provides a long-lasting durable surface that you can use for

more than just parking the vehicles. A flexible rail based organizer system, mounted off the floor for ease of cleaning, can provide a practical and valuable addition to this space. So now you have a good-looking organized space that you would be proud to use with your family and friends at your next party.

***Under-deck Utilization*** - In the rolling terrain of the North Georgia suburbs, many of us have decks off a raised level of our home.

Very often, the surface below the deck is unused and sometimes an eyesore that detracts from the value of the home. You have an opportunity to turn this into usable space for entertaining, storage or that hot tub that you always promised yourself. The answer is under-decking. A professional grade product is non-corrosive, ventilated and will move any water away from the home. After a properly installed under-deck system, you can screen in the area, hang your favorite swing, install a ceiling fan or just put your favorite lawn chair down and admire your good sense with your new-found money.

Others projects that will certainly improve the functionality of your home and enhance its value include: bathroom faucets, shower heads, framing pre-existing plate-glass bathroom mirrors, new ceiling fans, updated lighting fixtures, new appliances in the kitchen and on and on. So set your priorities and get organized to improve your property.

Remember to save the invoices as they generally will add to the tax basis of your property. Who knows if the exemption for sale of principal residence will survive the current political environment?

You should always consider working with a qualified professional for you home improvement needs. For more information on the above and related products, you can check out our web site at [www.addingvaluellc.com](http://www.addingvaluellc.com).

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