

Hertfordshire MERCURY



Tracey Waples Property Editor

ARE you one of the 61 per cent of households in the UK that have a NERD in their home?

Before you presume that's a good thing (aren't nerds, geeks and the likes brilliant at fixing computers?) the NERDS in question here are Never Ending Renovation Dramas; DIY jobs that are started, but never completed.

Some 58 per cent of the respondents in RatedPeople.com's recent questionnaire took over six months to finish off a NERD and 16 per cent of them have lived with one for over three years!

Most of us may start DIY projects with good intentions, but not necessarily all the required skills and although NERDS may sound amusing, they can have serious consequences and when you are selling your home.

Peeling paintwork, half-finished tiling, unsecured electrical sockets and missing bath panels are all major turn-offs for any buyer.

It can give them the impression that the rest of the house is in poor condition too. A few years ago, a B&Q survey estimated that poor paint-work or decoration in your home could take up to £3,000 off the sale price and a half-finished kitchen could reduce it by £5,000. That was back in 2004 so you can safely assume it will be even more today.

Kitchens and bathrooms are the most common places to find NERDs, which is unfortunate, as they are also the areas that buyers tend to check most carefully.

Unfinished or dirty bathrooms and kitchens appear at the top of almost every list ever compiled for property turn-offs.

If you are thinking about putting your house on the market, whether to sell or rent, you need to finish those jobs off.

The best and easiest thing to do is to call in a professional. Don't be embarrassed about the mess you've made of it previously.

Instead, think about how much money it will cost you if don't get it done.

CONTACT:

Editorial and Advertising

Dean Walters
Media sales manager
Mercury, Herts and Lea Valley
Star

(01992) 526666
email: dean.walters
@hertsessexnews.co.uk