

# Top 10 Things That Make Your House Spooky – And How to Fix Them

– Whether buying, building or remodeling, here are the most Halloween-worthy house design elements from The Plan Collection –

**STAMFORD, CT–(Oct. 15, 2013)–** [The Plan Collection](#) (TPC), the leading online house plan provider, notes that having a haunted-looking house might be just the look you want once a year, but what about once Halloween's over? The company shares their list of the top 10 elements of a [house plan](#) design that can make any home the scariest in the neighborhood – along with advice on how to fix them.

1. **Eerie Architectural Style.** Remember the rather “unique” look of the home in *The Addams Family*? Norman Bates’ house on the hill in *Psycho*? Certain architectural styles – such as Victorian and the Second Empire style with its mansard roofs – have a long history in spooky literature and horror films. Ironically, we often associate these same styles with some of the most cheerful and charming places in the country – just think Disney’s Main Street USA.
2. **Lifeless Color Scheme.** Dark paint colors, when used as the primary exterior color, can make almost any home look dreary, uninviting. Lighter paint colors that complement the design of your house are often the better choice for the exterior of your home. Reserve your use of darker color to areas that emphasize special features such as the trim or windows.
3. **Ghostly Lighting.** No one wants to knock on the door of a house without exterior lighting, but lighting features that cause heavy shadows along walk-ways or at entry points – creating that fear that something or someone might be lurking just ahead – can be even worse. Redirecting the light features or using lower wattage bulbs is often an easy way to chase the ghosts away. If investing in new lighting, consider lamps that emphasize the beauty of your home’s exterior features.
4. **Zombie Landscaping.** Those trees and bushes might have looked perfectly sized to the house for perhaps the first five years after planted, but don’t forget...they’re alive. Alive! Neglected trees and shrubs keep growing and need constant tending. Without attention, they end up surrounding your house with an “undead” feel. In addition to detracting from the house design, older, large branches are also a risk to your home in storms. Take those pruners and cut off some heads – or at least give everything a good trim.
5. **Suspended Maintenance.** Most everyone puts at least some repairs off, but rigorous home maintenance is essential. Spring and fall are the best time of year to start checking fix-it projects off your list. Fix that step before you have to fix the entire stairs! If the exterior is starting to look dull consider power washing it. Touch up paint before a small problem becomes a big one.
6. **Scary Windows.** Small windows or windows covered with heavy drapery create a more somber feel. For small windows, use brighter window treatments to lighten the mood. Take advantage of any larger windows to bring outdoor light into the home.
7. **Creepy Front Door.** Ever have second thoughts before knocking on a front door while trick-or-treating? Well, the size and color of the entry door play a big role in making first impressions. If the front door feels uninviting, think about using a bolder, friendlier color – such as a bright red – or chase away the shadows by strategically using lighting.
8. **Bone Chilling Floor Plan.** Small rooms and narrow hallways make for a cramped, uninviting floor plan. Consider an open concept floor plan if buying or building a house. If renovating, be sure to consult a professional before removing walls in your current home, as they may be “load bearing” walls, and will have to be replaced with other supports or structures.
9. **Mysterious Staircases.** Narrow staircases with walls on both sides can be dark and creepy. Lowering a wall to open the staircase up to the room or hallway below can go a long way to dispelling some of the dark, scary mystery and making your stairs more inviting.

10. **Horrrifying Home Décor.** Dark, oversized furniture and heavy rugs can have a tendency to make a home feel less inviting. Stacks of stuff and excess clutter around the house? Not going to help the situation. Ask yourself if you really need all that stuff – and if not, get rid of some of it.

With home building picking up, those in the market for a new home should be sure to get these design elements right before closing. In fact, according to the [National Association of Home Builders](#) the ongoing housing recovery is expected to continue gaining momentum next year, with single-family home production expected to rise another 31 percent next year to 826,000, surpassing the 1 million mark by 2015.

### **About The Plan Collection (<http://www.theplancollection.com/product-ideas/>)**

The Plan Collection is driven by the simple idea that great house design should be affordable and readily accessible to everyone. The company provides homeowners, prospective homeowners and builders with more than 20,000 house plans selected from the nation's leading designers and architects along with tens of thousands of instructional images and inspirational photos.

From the days of printed house plan books to PCs, the Internet, social media, and now tablets – [The Plan Collection \(TPC\)](#) and its founders have been dedicated to providing users with a better, more convenient and more valuable home building experience. Customers enjoy the benefits of a broad selection of high quality home plans and detailed how-to information, an easy-to-search site and knowledgeable customer service. TPC understands what homeowners are looking for, and delivers better search results to its users. As a result, thousands of houses have been built at a lower cost using pre-drawn house plans that meet homeowners' specific needs and desires.

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