

# Project Dilemma



The exterior lights to the guest cottage were looking tired and faded. What started as an easy DIY project now has me stumped about another. It seems like every time I start one

project, it inevitably leads to ones I haven't considered.

As you can see below, the exterior light fixtures to the guest house look like this. The original oil rubbed bronze finished has oxidized and faded over time.



## Side entrance

I do like the classic shape of the lantern, which fits the quaint exterior of the guest cottage. Often I like the design of a light, but don't like the finish. If you find a light you like, it is easy to change the appearance with paint.



After carefully removing the light (please make sure the power is OFF or have a licensed electrician do this), I cleaned it thoroughly. I did this by using water and a paper towel. Since the glass panels did not slide out, I carefully taped all the places that I wanted paint-free.



This is the most tedious part of the preparation, but it is better to prepare and prevent rather than repair and repent. I wasn't quite sure of the color I wanted, so I painted them a Rust-oleum brown first and then lightly used an oil rubbed bronze spray over the brown.



After removing all the blue painters tape, the lights look brand new. I am please with the clean and fresh look.



Now the entrance looks a bit more perky.



I posted this project on [HomeTalk](#) and so far it has had nearly 10,000 views. To read the more detailed DIY on painting lighting fixtures, click [here](#). However, one HomeTalk comment was “the lights look so good, is the mailbox next?”

Quite honestly, I never even noticed how sad the mailbox looks. It is a vintage box and I’ve haven’t seen another like

it. But, the metal mailbox does look like the ugly sibling now. What should I do with it?



The gold-ish diamonds are also on the top of the box and a bit raised from the surface.



I like the design of the box because the front opens forward for you to reach your mail.



So what should I do to the mailbox? Leave it alone? Re-paint the black or another color? Paint the whole thing? Just give it a clear coat? If so, shiny or satin? I cannot remove the curlicue piece on the front as the rivets are welded in.





This mailbox does need a face lift! Please send me your thoughts as I'd love to wrap up this project this week. Since I received so many good ideas on my front door color request, I am hoping I can tap into your expertise on this one!

Have a wonderful Tuesday! To see more on this sweet guest cottage, click [here](#).

Mary