

Home Improvements

When faced with a choice, many homeowners decide to improve their homes, rather than move. They modernize the kitchen, replace the roof, finish the basement, add a bathroom, or make their homes more energy efficient. The American Housing Survey (AHS), jointly administered by the Census Bureau and the Department of Housing

and Urban Development, tracks home improvements as well as a variety of other housing topics. According to the AHS, "home improvements" exclude "routine maintenance," which is defined as regular maintenance activities necessary for the preventive care of the structure, property, and fixed equipment items.

Well Over Half Made Improvements

76.1 Million Total Owner-Occupied Housing Units



43.7 Million Homeowners Made Improvements (57%)

Almost 1 in 4 of Those Made Energy Efficiency Improvements

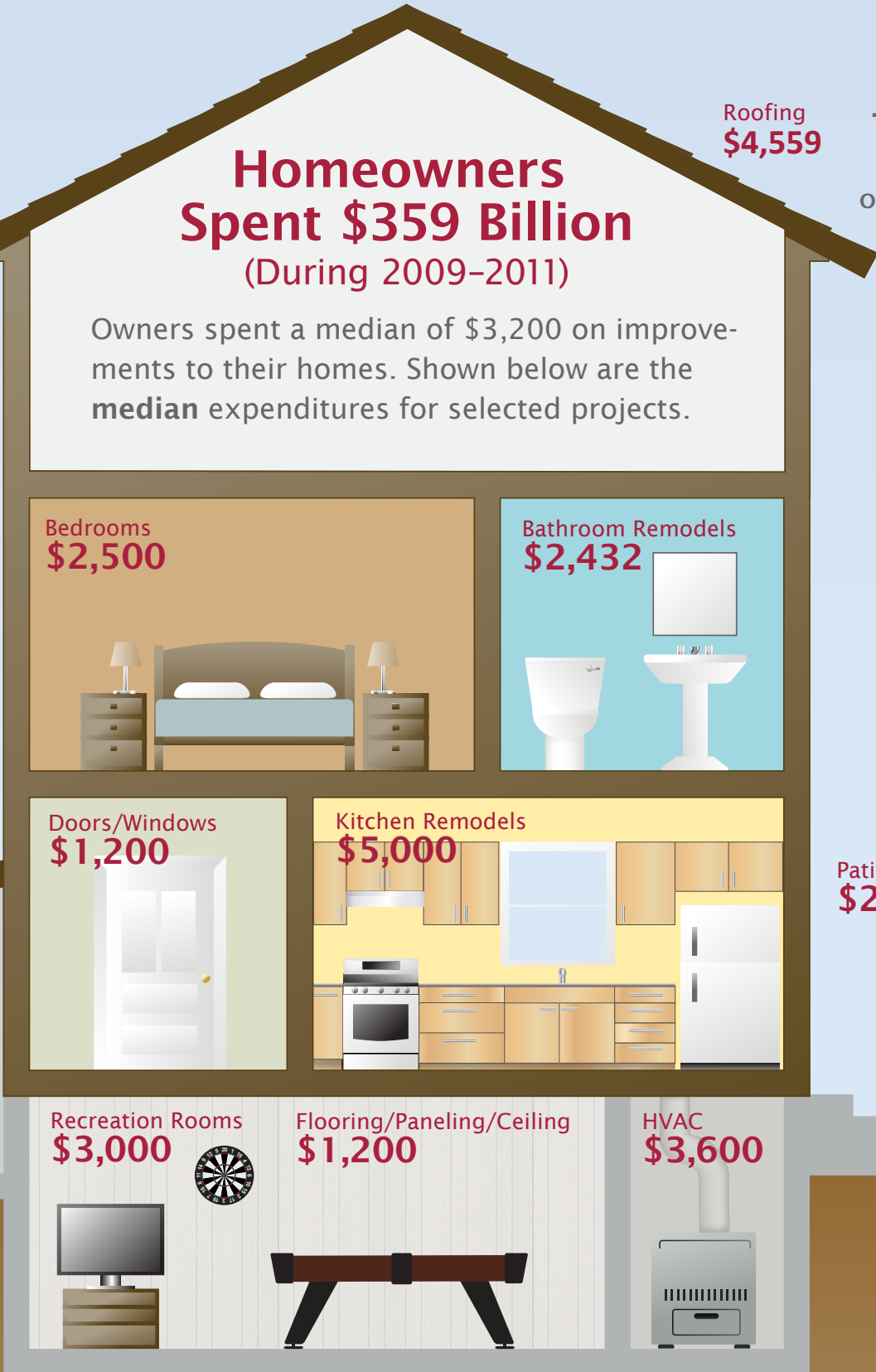


10.4 Million Made Energy Efficiency Improvements (24%)



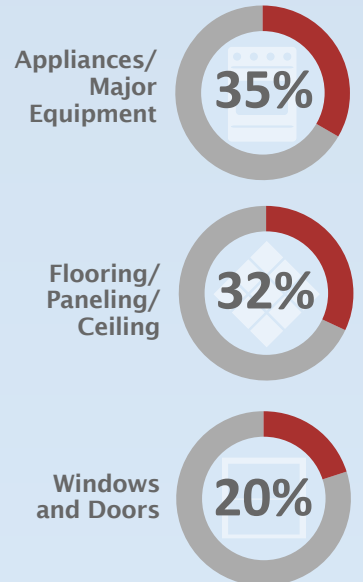
Disaster Repairs

Number of Occupied Housing Units



Top Improvements Made to Units

Of the 43.7 million owner-occupied units with improvements



Patio/Terrace/Detached Deck
\$2,000



Many Projects Are Done by Homeowners

44 Million of 119 Million Projects



Improvements Varied Widely in Cost

	Total Expenditures	Number of Projects
Roofing	\$43.7 Billion	7.5 Million
Kitchen Remodels	\$35.7 Billion	3.7 Million
HVAC	\$34.0 Billion	9.8 Million
Flooring/Paneling/Ceiling	\$33.2 Billion	18.8 Million
Windows/Doors	\$24.1 Billion	8.9 Million
Bathroom Remodels	\$23.1 Billion	5.0 Million
Patio/Terrace/Detached Deck	\$13.4 Billion	3.5 Million
Recreation Room	\$3.5 Billion	.5 Million

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2011 American Housing Survey.