

A photograph of a dark blue door set in a white stone wall. The door features a brass knocker in the shape of a lion's head. To the left of the knocker are three small brass knobs. A light-colored, textured doormat is placed on the ground in front of the door. The text 'real inspiration' is overlaid at the top, and 'first impressions' is overlaid in the center of the door. Below the title is a short paragraph and credits.

real inspiration

first impressions

Give visitors a warm welcome by
sprucing up your entrance area.

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HEAD COUNT

Above: Make your home more than just another number on Postman Pat's route. But do take your doorway into account: a graphic number is the perfect match for modern, metallic door finishes whereas a cottage door would find a more suitable match in scripted or wooden digits. In either case, a creeper planted nearby will soften the lines and add charm.

WARM WELCOME

Previous page: Paint your door a cheerful colour. Instead of bright and glossy, go deep and matt to draw the eye – and visitors – in.

GARDEN PATH

Right: Line the path to your front door with tall potted plants to escort visitors and create a sense of occasion. But do leave steps clear and uncluttered; you don't want to spoil their entrance by tripping them up.

A NEW LEAF

Below: Somewhere between your hurried exits and rushed entrances take stock and add a water feature. Filled with flowers or floating candles, it's likely to induce that elusive sense of calm.



A beautiful glass door should not be curtained. Create privacy without blocking out light with transparent sandblasted vinyl – it's far less painful and messy than getting the glazers in.



do-it-yourself in 2 easy steps

Foil Peeping Toms by blocking the view without sandblasting.

tip If your hand is not steady enough, **use a piece of cardboard to smooth down the vinyl.** A heavy-duty piece cut to the width of the pane will take care of creases and air bubbles – especially if done at a snail's pace.



STEP ONE

Measure the window panes carefully and trace the exact sizes on the back of a sheet of vinyl using a pencil and steel ruler. Cut the vinyl with a craft knife, on a tough surface.



STEP TWO

Peel the backing from a small section at the top of the sheet and attach along the top of the pane. Smooth down to get rid of trapped air bubbles, peeling off the backing as you go. ■