

Kitchen Trends 2009

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the Surface Beneath



When homeowners discuss green building today, usually they are concerned about conserving energy. As they prepare every month to pay the gas and electric bill, they are asking questions such as: Is my home well insulated? What is the U-value of my windows? Are my appliances ENERGY STAR rated? They realize that making adjustments in the kind of products they choose for their home can result in considerable savings for them.

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Kitchen Transformation

Our clients dreamed of updating their 1965-era kitchen to reflect current fashions and include modern amenities. The Forest Glen Construction team worked with them to create a design that fulfills their wishes without increasing the original square footage.

Extensive birch cabinetry in a dark finish with a rich, black glaze greatly increases the kitchen's organization and storage capabilities. Granite countertops in two complementary colors offer a stylish look. A bay window (not in photo) now opens up the kitchen eating area with natural light.

This beautiful new kitchen was completed in 3 months with minimal disruption for our clients. They were thrilled at the professionalism of our construction team that left the site "broom clean" each day and produced a finished product of the highest quality.

We would love to talk to you about updating your kitchen or any other area of your home.

Please visit our website for more information:

www.ForestGlenConstruction.com.

Before



After



KITCHEN TRENDS

2009

Homeowners continue to regard the kitchen as the most important of all rooms, regardless of the size or cost of their home. Everyone desires beauty, efficiency and state-of-the-art amenities in the kitchen. The following list of current trends can be your guideline for this year's kitchen makeover—however big or small.

OVERALL DESIGN

- Clean, straight lines
- Simple, rather than highly embellished
- Focus on the details

CURRENT STYLES

- Traditional (still #1)
- Arts and Crafts
- Soft Contemporary
- Rustic
- Shingle style (Hampton)

CABINETRY

- Maple dominates the wood species
- Medium to darker stains prevail
- White with black is coming to the fore
- Greater use of color—contrasting light and dark—is stylish
- “Second-life” furniture pieces provide personality and are eco-friendly
- Decorative hardware is larger, artistic and more textural

APPLIANCES

- Arrange appliances according to work centers
- Appliance and fixture size and number should be appropriate to the kitchen size
- Steam ovens and induction cooktops have caught on
- Cabinet depth refrigerators—French door or slim columns— are all the rage
- Look for energy guides on each appliance: WaterSense and ENERGY STAR



Photo: Courtesy of Aristokraft Cabinetry (www.aristokraft.com)

APPLIANCE FINISHES

- Stainless steel is still the top choice.
- Custom paneling integrating appliances with cabinetry is very popular
- Bold colors are increasingly in demand
- Oil-rubbed bronze is another desired option

SINKS & FAUCETS

- A large sink bowl is well-liked for its flexibility
- High-arc faucets and pull-out sprays are hot items

FIXTURE FINISHES

- Brushed chrome, nickel or stainless steel are the most prominent
- Oil-rubbed bronze is also important

COUNTERTOPS

- Granite is the leading selection
- Wood, glass, soapstone, slate, and quartz provide fashionable options
- Green possibilities include recycled aluminum, recycled glass, and recycled paper
- Multiple materials used together is the rage

BACKSPASHES

- Tile and stone are the favorites
- Standard height is 4" but the material is often extended to the ceiling

FLOORS

- Tile and stone are popular in a 24" x 24" format
- Bamboo, cork and wood are softer underfoot

STORAGE

- Walk-in pantries are in demand
- Interior cabinet storage systems optimize storage space
- Automatic roll-out under-counter trash containers and compost bins are convenient
- Add storage in rooms adjacent to the kitchen, such as the butler's pantry, mud room or laundry room

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

- Varied work surface heights designed for cooks of all ages and abilities
- Fewer wall cabinets, but a greater number of efficient drawer systems make storage easy to reach



In *HOT* Water

Are you thinking about replacing your household tank-style water heater? Perhaps you've heard that a tankless water heater will provide you endless hot water instantly, as well as save you considerable money on energy costs. Before you make the switch, it is important to carefully evaluate which type of water heater will work best for your particular situation.

A tank water heater stores hot water, keeping it hot even when you aren't using it. With this method, energy is wasted every time the water in the tank begins to cool and then is brought to temperature again. If your tank is in the basement, it can take a while for the hot water to reach an upstairs bathroom, and some of the heat is lost on the way. In addition, the amount of stored water is limited and you may experience the shock of cold water if you test those limits. On the other hand, tank water heaters are relatively inexpensive to install and maintain. Another positive note is that tank water heaters are becoming more efficient. If you buy a 10- or 12-year warranty tank heater, it will have better insulation and often more efficient combustion chambers, as well as two diode rods that help increase the life of the tank.

A tankless water heater begins to heat the water only after you turn on the faucet, so there is no standby energy loss. If your tankless heater is installed at a distance from the bathroom, it will take some time for the hot water to reach the showerhead, and some of the heat will be lost on the way. If your home is several stories, you may want to install separate units on the upper and lower levels. These heaters don't require much space. With properly sized units, you can have the pleasure of hot water that never runs out.

If the water coming into your home is very cold, it can take a real burst of energy to heat the water to showering temperature rapidly. The higher BTU needed for a tankless device may require a bigger vent and a larger gas line, which makes the tankless heaters initially more expensive to install. If gas is not available in your area, be sure to calculate the extra cost this type of unit will put on your electric bill. The complexity of tankless heaters means that regular maintenance is advised.



These photos illustrate the difference in space requirements for a tank-type water heater versus a tankless.



Dollars & Sense

If you've been longing for a spa-like experience in your master bath—but at the same time hoping to keep your water utility costs down—you'll be happy to know you can have it all! Sleek and stylish fixtures are now available that have earned the EPA's WaterSense label for high-efficiency faucets. These faucets deliver a flow rate of 1.5 gallons per minute (gpm), a remarkable improvement

over the standard 2.2 gpm required by the Federal Energy Policy Act of 1992, yet they do not compromise performance. In addition, these products help you be a steward of our earth's natural resources. And that's another good feeling.

The Kenzo's modern waterfall trough styling is a real eye-catcher.



The Fina features a marquis-shaped spout that offers a beautiful, sheeting water presentation.



Courtesy of Price Pfister (www.PricePfister.com)

Photo: Courtesy of Show House by Moen (www.showhouse.moen.com)

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Beneath the Surface



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Beneath the Surface

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However, another important part of the green building equation is the issue of sustainability. Are we using the earth's resources at a rate that meets our current needs while also replenishing these resources for future generations? Many creative people have been asking that important question and are coming up with some unique solutions. As you make plans to remodel your home, keep in mind there are some exciting new products available that are earth-friendly in every aspect.

Take a peek at these innovative and beautiful countertop materials, and then picture them adorning your kitchen!

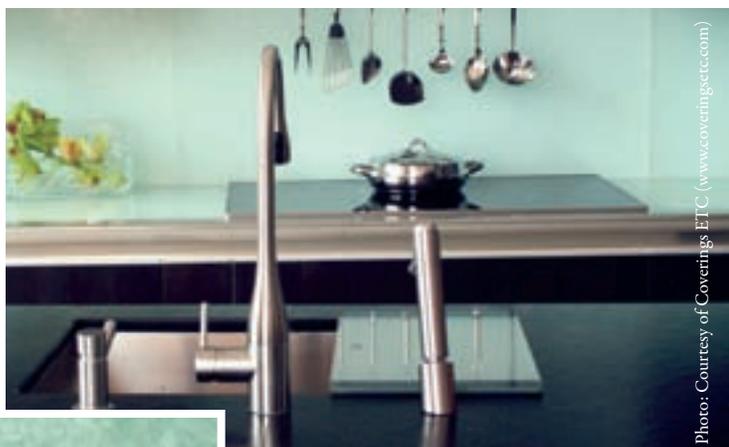


Photo: Courtesy of Coverings ETC (www.coveringsetc.com)

Bio-Glass is made from 100% recycled glass and is itself recyclable. The layers of compressed glass pieces create unique patterns through which light permeates resulting in a solid surface that appears lit from within. Bio-Glass recently received a coveted Silver certification from Cradle to Cradle.



Paperstone is manufactured using 100% recycled post-consumer waste paper and a non-petroleum, water-based phenolic resin system. Heat-resistant up to 350° F, it washes clean with non-abrasive dish soap. Paperstone is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, Smartwood and the Rainforest Alliance.



Photo: Courtesy of McStain Home Studio, CO (www.paperstoneproducts.net)

EcoTop is composed of a 50/50 blend of bamboo fiber (a rapidly renewable resource) and recycled wood fiber salvaged from demolition sites. These materials are bound together by a water-based resin formula that is both petroleum-free and VOC-free. EcoTop is Forest Stewardship Council-certified.



Photo: Courtesy of EcoTop (www.EcoTopSurfaces.com)



Photo: Courtesy of IceStone (www.icestone.biz)

IceStone is made from 100% recycled glass in a concrete base. The durable surface is as strong as granite, less porous than marble and heat-resistant like stone. Currently, there are 27 colors available, but the color palette is infinite. IceStone is a recent recipient of the prestigious Gold Cradle to Cradle certification.