

# You can dress up your kitchen with cabinets

No longer is the kitchen simply a place to prepare meals. Today, as families take refuge in their houses from hectic daily schedules, it also functions as a dining room, a family room, an office, a playroom and a recycling center. Without question, the kitchen is again becoming "the heart" of the American home.

It comes as little surprise, then, that the kitchen is the most frequently remodeled room in the house. After all, if you're spending so much time in the kitchen, shouldn't it be a functional place that fits your family's lifestyle? So, more than ever, as interest rates and home prices climb, Americans are opting to stay put and remodel, starting with the kitchen.

According to the National Kitchen and Bath Association, 52 percent of the cost of a new or remodeled kitchen goes toward new cabinetry. Therefore, you'll want to spend some time shopping for cabinet styles, sizes and options

to fit your design plans and your budget. And, since cabinets are a high-ticket item, why not use them and coordinating accessories to dress up the look of your kitchen? Your first stop should be visiting kitchen and bath dealer who has a showroom with numerous full-size accessories that fit their personal tastes and unique lifestyles.

Be it country, contemporary, traditional or something in between, there are a multitude of design options to select from.

## Dressing Up Cabinetry

Dettinger offered Yorktown's popular white vinyl Whitehall cabinetry, customized with Country accents and accessories, as an example of how homeowners can create a functional, personalized kitchen, without paying custom cabinet prices. Here are a few of Dettinger's suggestions for dressing kitchen cabinetry:

Period wall end cabinets with Country English fretwork and

spindles soften the look of cabinets and provide easy-access areas to display plants, cookbooks, etc.

Cabinets with see-through mullion doors create an open look and are an ideal showcase for cherished silver, china, glassware or prized collectibles. Most manufacturers offer multiple mullion styles, as well as plain door frames. They can be customized with clear, smoked or stained glass, or consider adding lace curtains. Any combination will be both attractive and practical. Period open shelf base cabinets also provide a unique decorative touch with decorative fretwork, an adjustable shelf and a special grooved paneling back called wainscoting. They are usually 24 inches deep, making storing oversized items easy.

To conserve sacred cabinet storage space, while adding a stylish flair to your kitchen, consider plate racks and/or decorative cup holders. Space-saving cup holders

also can be used to display spices, decorative tins or collectibles.

Want your new kitchen to be a clutter-free zone? Add base cabinets with built-in trash containers and recycling sorting bins. Other cabinet accessories that combine form and function: drawers with built-in bread boxes, solid maple cutting blocks and even ironing boards. Toasters, mixers, etc., can be neatly stored in "appliance garages" with sliding tambour doors. When you visit the dealer showroom, take a look at some of the following special cabinets and accessories and add them to your "dress up" wish list:

- Open shelf wall cabinets with decorative gallery rail
- Wall bookcase cabinets and china closets for collectibles or kitchenware
- Decorative wooden range hoods
- Lattice wine racks
- Microwave oven shelves
- Dishwasher and refrigerator panels customized to match your

cabinetry

■ Decorative spindles, gallery rails and moldings

■ Under-sink drop-down louver trays for sponges, etc.

■ Decorative fluted (vertically grooved) filters and overlays

■ Wainscoting paneling for a textured look

■ Shaped wooden supports to hold countertops or shelving

■ Finishing Touches (vertically grooved) moldings and decorative

rims, once only crafted by custom cabinet builders, are now readily available from most major cabinet manufacturers in many shapes and sizes and can go a long way toward creating a warm, inviting kitchen.

Shaped crown moldings or a gallery spindle rail can be applied to the top front of wall cabinets creating a distinctive, finishing touch. A wide variety of looks can be achieved by using different molding styles and shapes together. Applying rope or dental moldings onto crown moldings is a

good example. You also can creatively use moldings to enclose lighting fixtures, "dress" range hoods, or trim around windows and doors.

A hot trend right now is to use a different color molding or trim to complement your cabinetry. Whether you choose distinctive moldings to go along the top of wall cabinets, or a refined trim to outline counter top edges, these little extras help your cabinetry and your kitchen make an elegant statement. A good cabinet manufacturer also will have a large selection of decorative hardware to put just the right finishing touch on your new kitchen. Wood, brass, chrome and ceramic are few of the options available. Whatever your taste, you'll be able to choose the perfect knobs, pulls and handles to give more style to your kitchen — "the heart" of your house.

For more information about kitchen remodeling, write to Yorktown, Inc., P.O. Box 231, Red Lion, PA 17356.

# Don't get burned: Focus on preventing fires at home

With National Fire Safety Awareness Week slated for October 8-14 this year, it's never too soon to check for fire hazards in your home and either take precautions to get them or remove them.

To get you started, the CertainTeed Home Institute has prepared the following checklist: Do: ■ Keep items like paints, thinners and gasoline in their original containers and out of your house.

- Check the insulation in your attic and if it is combustible, replace it with a more fire safe material. For example, cellulose insulation, made of ground up newspapers, can be a source of attic fires when installed too close to heat sources such as recessed lights. Replace cellulose with a non-combustible, high quality material like Insul Safe III Blown-In Fiber Glass Insulation. Insul Safe III will remain non-combustible for the life of a

house.

■ Promptly replace any faulty wiring in a house.

■ Keep trash in covered containers and dispose of it regularly.

■ Keep plenty of fire extinguishers handy; put one in the kitchen and at least one on each floor.

■ Install at least one smoke detector in the hallway leading to the bedrooms; and install one on each level of your house. Don't:

■ Leave matches where children can get to them. The temptation to "play with fire" can easily lead to a real fire.

■ Smoke cigarettes in bed.

■ Block windows or doors with heavy furniture.

■ Let smoke detector batteries go unchecked. Check your batteries when the clocks change.

■ Assume everyone in your family knows what to do in the event of a fire. Hold periodic fire drills.

For more information on home safety, particularly relating to insulation and fire safety, write to the CertainTeed Home Institute,

P.O. Box 860, Valley Forge, PA 19482 or call 1-800-782-8777 and ask for the "Insulation and Fire Safety" brochure.

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