

# Home Improvement Guide For '65

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## Layout Is Key To Real Improvement

Every homemaker dreams of the ideal kitchen. Expert, well-planned remodeling can turn a harried housewife's day-dream into reality. Whether a kitchen is of tiny or spacious proportions, there is an ideal, space-saving layout which would utilize the space provided most efficiently and attractively. Layout and lighting are two of the most important features in kitchen planning. It's best to start any remodeling with a scale drawing, listing all available counter and storage space, as well as room for appliances and eating space.

Overhead lighting should be soft, with additional fixtures directly over the cooking and eating areas. Skylights and suspended illuminated ceilings are some possibilities.

**Plan for Maximum Convenience**  
For maximum convenience, kitchen layout can provide for the sink to be placed between the cooktop and refrigerator, with counters placed to form a continuous line between the major appliances.

The "U" shaped layout is a popular and convenient one. This consists of the sink, dishwasher and ample counter space on one arm of the "U," cooking appliances on another arm and storage cabinets and a large work counter which can double as a breakfast bar on the third arm. Other layout formations are the "L," "V" and "S" patterns.

To reduce expense in remodeling a kitchen, it is wise to investigate plumbing and wiring and try to stick to existing lines whenever it is feasible. However, avoid false economy.

**Designed for "Built-In" Look**  
Be sure wiring and plumbing capacity are equal to the additional load created when new appliances are installed. Making necessary changes in plumbing and wiring right at the start of kitchen remodeling projects can avoid a lot of unnecessary trouble and expense later. In a larger kitchen, extra work space can be had through the addition of a work-island, complete with extra sink and chopping block.

## Plywood Can Look Good Either Way

Plywood, particularly fir, can be made attractive whether its grain is covered with a solid paint or it is finished to show the natural look of the grain.

First the surface must be sanded as smooth as possible and left completely clean.

To hide the surface completely, brush on a coat of pigmented penetrating sealer, and after it has dried, smooth with sandpaper and remove all sandings.

If the top coat is to be a gloss enamel, the second coat should consist of equal parts of enamel undercoat and the top coat. If the top coat is to be a latex, apply a second coat of the resin sealer and sand lightly before applying final coat.

If a natural finish is desired, select a wood with an attractive grain and sand as smooth as possible.

Now brush on a coat of clear penetrating resin sealer. After this has dried, sand again with a fine paper. To color the wood to some degree, apply a coat of wood stain, a coat of colored penetrating sealer or tint clear resin sealer with color in oil, reducing 25 per cent with paint thinner. Whatever is used, it should stand for a few minutes and wiped off to get the desired color.

This, too, should be sanded lightly when dry, and then one or two coats of varnish of the desired sheen brushed on.

For modern, blond effects this should be done after the first coat of sealer has dried. Thin white pigmented resin sealer or enamel undercoat 50-50 with odorless paint thinner and brush on the surface. After it has dried and been wiped off, the surface should be protected with one or two coats of varnish.

**DOOR PANELING**—Like the look of old-time manor house wall paneling you can duplicate it by paneling walls with stock paneled doors in ponderosa pine or Douglas fir. The doors can be stained to any shade desired.

## Paneling Adds Distinction

Once upon a time wood paneling meant an early American setting or an expensive book-lined den. Today, paneling is used in homes of every price range and in every room in the house.

Modern furnishings especially require a setting of sufficient warmth to give rooms a softened air, but one that doesn't conflict with the decorative scheme. Warm of tone, rich and expressive woods are ideal for the paneling of modern rooms.

News in the use of wood in modern home decoration is the upsurge in the use of color which can be obtained by blending finishes with the wood surface. Blues, greens—even golds—can provide beautiful wall effects and may be applied to Western Pine region woods with excellent results.

Lumber responds beautifully to stains and clear or pigmented finishes that allow the grain and knots to show through. Thus, the lumber may be left with its natural tone, or even when color is added with a wipe-on, brush-off finish, the wood will display its qualities of beauty and interest. It also may be painted, but then the beauty of the wood is hidden.

The size of a room and style of furniture determines the

type of paneling installation. An air of spaciousness is produced by use of boards 10 or 12 inches wide for paneling. Narrower widths emphasize the direction of line, as well as lending a textural and subtly patterned effect to the wall.

In a modern living room

where a formal but comfortable atmosphere is indicated, use 6-inch widths of paneling with simple V-joints and a light finish to blend with any colors selected for furnishings, giving a sense of wholeness and harmony.

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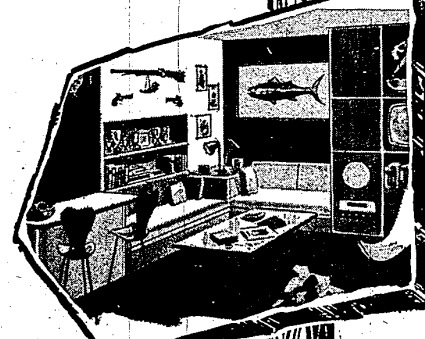
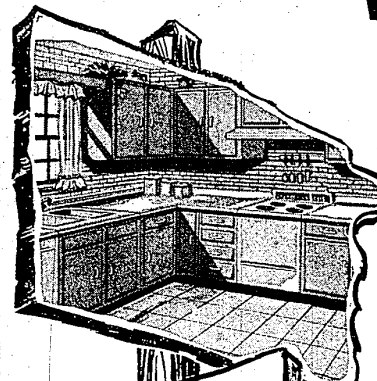
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