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Hardware resonates good taste. A goose-neck spigot isn't only handsome, it is functional. It can be obtained in white, black, dark bronze or brass as well as the standard chrome. The balance of the hardware should match.

Standard towel rods are more interesting if three or four are stacked one above another, as in a ladder. Even more fun is to run one continuous rod around the entire perimeter of the kitchen, just under the counter. If you have an island kitchen there should be a second continuous rod.

On the floor

Be apprised that floors enhance the entire job. No longer will the ubiquitous rolls of linoleum or Congoleum suffice. Squares of vinyl laid on the diagonal, with accent colors, will lend personality. Or large clay tiles are

handsome.

One of my favorite floors is very bleached white oak strip. The oak strips are available more narrow than the standard 2-1/2-inch stock and are ever so much more effective. Must be seen to be believed — an awesome floor, it has a very modern aura.

Another wood floor is called "log cabin." The strips are laid in a concentric square design, with each of the four corners alternating as in a log cabin. Very effective. This requires a rectangular or squarish room.

Have I spent all your money? I trust you are an inordinate cook and will love every moment you are in your new kitchen. It will justify the cost.

Naomi Stone Levy, a Franklin resident, is an interior designer and a former secretary of the American Society of Interior Designers.

Get heap of compost tips

Join master composters from the Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority's Healthy Lawn and Garden Project, and master gardeners from Cranbrook Gardens, for a morning of ecologically responsible gardening tips in "Compost at Cranbrook," 9-11 a.m. Saturday, June 22, at Cranbrook Gardens, 380 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Receive hands-on instruction on composting and discover how this simple

process will help create a healthy, vibrant garden. Fee is \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. Reservations are required. For more information, call (810) 645-3233.

Admission includes a guided tour of the beautiful Cranbrook Gardens and a complimentary pass to see the exciting new environmental exhibit, Earth-Quest, at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

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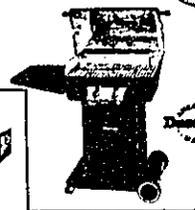
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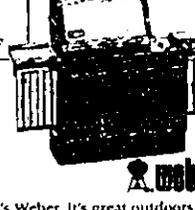
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