

Do-It-Yourself Remodelers Update Kitchen And Bath

In a recent national survey of homeowners, nearly half indicated they have already or are planning to remodel their kitchen or bathroom this year. A surprising 82 percent of homeowners who plan on remodeling report they'll fund their project through savings rather than take out a home equity loan or obtain money from other sources. Not only are these homeowners saving before remodeling, a review of their purchasing patterns shows a high awareness for the overall value of their remodeling investment.

"Homeowners are much more careful with their money," notes home improvement expert Beverly DeJulio. "And, as the survey shows, they tend to invest in projects that can update or modernize a room without breaking their budget."

Updated Faucets In Both Kitchen And Bath

The most popular reason for starting a kitchen or bath remodeling project, cited by nearly 60 percent of the remodelers surveyed, is the need to update or modernize the kitchen or bathroom. And the preferred way to do that? New faucets - cited by nearly 50 percent of those surveyed.

"Nothing dates a room like an older faucet," DeJulio explains. "Whether it's the kitchen or the bathroom, there are so many modern faucet designs to choose from. In the bathroom, I like the look of Moen's Monticello series. For the kitchen, I'd recommend Moen's One-Touch. If you want to update a room a step at a time, this is the best place to start."

Semi-Custom Cabinets In The Kitchen

Another popular kitchen update, cited by over a third of the kitchen remodelers surveyed, is semi-custom cabinets. Providing homeowners the flexibility to express their personal taste, semi-custom cabinets offered by Decora provide a wide variety of molding, cabinet facing and handle styles. More important, they offer this design flexibility at a reasonable price.

"Semi-custom cabinets are really the way to go," DeJulio says. "Homeowners can get the look they want without paying custom prices."

Another kitchen remodeling trend is the addition of cabinet accessories



such as spice racks, wine racks or double wastebasket roll-outs offered by cabinet manufacturers such as Aristokraft. Twenty-eight percent of the kitchen remodelers in the survey said they plan to make better use of their cabinet space with accessories. Thirty-four percent of homeowners intending to remodel also want to include separate workstations for preparation, cooking and cleanup.

Saving Water And Other Bathroom Trends

As for bathroom remodelers, the most popular trend after new faucet installations is water conservation. Efficient shower, tub and faucet fixtures made the plans of nearly half the bathroom remodelers surveyed.

"There are several efficient showers available today," notes DeJulio. "For example, several shower models come with flow control features that keep your shower pressure at about 80 pounds per square inch while using about 2.5 gallons per minute. Moen also offers a new feature for both tub/shower and lavatory lever handle faucets: an adjustable temperature limit stop, which enables you to preset a maximum hot water temperature. This is especially important for children and the elderly."

To receive a free brochure full of easy remodeling ideas, call Moen Incorporated at 1-800-553-6636 and ask for Moen's Kitchen and Bath Guide To Remodeling. To receive Aristokraft's Kitchen Planning Kit, send \$7.95 payable to Aristokraft, Inc., to Kitchen Planning Kit, P.O. Box 420, Jasper, IN 47547-0420.

The national survey of homeowners was conducted in April by Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, New Jersey, on behalf of MasterBrand Industries.

Keeping Your Bathroom Looking Showroom Perfect

The beautiful bathrooms you see in home magazines and showrooms which feature fancy fixtures, imported tile or marble and glass shower doors always look so spotlessly clean. How do they do it?

In your home it's a different story, right? Unightly water spots, created when the water dries after someone takes a shower, leave your bath looking embarrassingly unpresentable.

There is an easy way to keep your bath looking "showroom" clean all the time. The trick is to squeeze the glass shower doors, tile and marble immediately after bathing while the surfaces are still wet. The procedure takes just seconds and saves a big cleanup job later.

To make the task easier, it's best to

See BATHROOM, 6

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