

kitchen+bath makeovers

refresh on a budget 14 real-life projects

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& AFTER
PHOTOS
OF EVERY
ROOM!



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8 easy ways to spruce up an ugly bath

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budget kitchen

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family matters

Twelve years after buying the perfect house with a not-so-perfect kitchen, DIYers create a stylish success story.

Go to BHG.com/InstallHardware for video tips that will make installing cabinet hardware a breeze.



You can find anything on Google.

That's exactly what homeowners Todd and Diane Halbur said about updating their suburban kitchen. Surfing the Web for tips on sanding and painting cabinetry, refinishing countertops, and cutting and installing tile helped the amateur do-it-yourselfers, including sons Jack and Ben, achieve an elegant upgrade for their U-shape kitchen.

The Halburs worked with *Kitchen + Bath Makeovers™* to refresh what they called the "1990s country" style of their home. Hoping to go more contemporary—but not *too* contemporary, they were quick to caution—we focused on traditional colors and textures in modern applications. Although it seemed dark in the paint can, the sagey gray on the cabinetry is brightened by the kitchen's ample natural light and complemented by the cool gray walls.

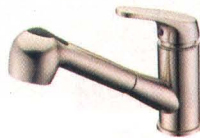
With a sophisticated palette in mind, the dirty and dated white laminate countertops were not going to cut it. Although the Halburs dreamed of granite, they knew it would be a costly upgrade. Instead, they got the look of new countertops with a countertop refinishing kit applied in five steps. After reading reviews and application tips, they decided to order two



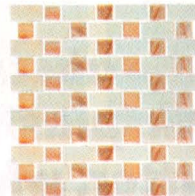
OPPOSITE: "I never thought painting cabinets would turn out so good," homeowner Diane Halbur says. "They look like new!" The secret was in the preparation, including quality primer and sanding help from her sons. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Although Diane leaned toward a more bold, graphic floral fabric, the boys vetoed her in favor of a more subtle pattern.

Alternative Styles

Pulling a look together is easier than you think! Here are three other products that would also complement this elegant update.



A LOW-PROFILE FAUCET fits better under a cabinet or shelf and includes a pullout sprayer. K450; \$55; Lenova; lenovasinks.com



GLASS TILES are easier to care for than stone. 7993487; \$25 per square foot; Susan Jablon Mosaics; susanjablonmosaics.com



DARK FINISHES are prominent and lend a traditional note to a space. 504319; \$4; Lowe's; lowes.com