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KITCHENS & BATHS

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Real-Life Kitchen & Bath Makeovers



Cut the Clutter!
25 Simple Tips

Smart Space-Saving Ideas

50 Kitchen Looks
You'll Love



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Cabinets in every flavor.

We believe variety is the spice of the kitchen. That's why at IKEA, our kitchen experts have designed our AKURUM cabinetry in a range of attractive styles, from traditional to modern. They're designed smart and built solid. So go ahead, put them to the test. This kitchen is sure to come out on top.



IKEA-USA.com

Requires assembly and installation.

INSIDER'S GUIDE

RIGHT: This walnut wood counter from J. Aaron resists scratches, heat, water and stains. \$95 per square foot for 1.75 inch thick. 404-298-4200; jaaroncaststone.com



tile counters are reasonably priced and skilled installers are easy to find.

WOOD AND BAMBOO

Wood countertops have a homey feel and take wear and tear gracefully. The best species for countertops are close-grained species like maple. Open-grained woods, such as oak, are not as well suited because they collect food and grime more readily.

A butcher block is a popular style of wood countertop, but wider planks can also be glued together to form counters of any width. Wood takes moderate heat well, and signs of wear, like knife marks, can be sanded out. Wood's biggest downfall is susceptibility to water stains and decay, so it should be well sealed, particularly around sinks.

Though not technically a wood, bamboo shares many of the same attributes. Because it is made of a renewable fiber, it is a good option for the eco-conscious consumer. The market for bamboo countertops is expanding, with companies like Teragren offering increased design options.

STAINLESS STEEL

Most commercial kitchens have stainless steel counters, and there's a reason for that: It's highly resistant to the

punishment cooks throw at it. Stainless steel doesn't absorb food, making it easier to keep sanitary, and with use it develops a maze of very fine scratches that give it a pleasant luster. Plus, countertops can be made with integral sinks and backsplashes, so they're easier to keep clean.

The downside of stainless steel is that it's fabricated by specialized shops, so it's more expensive. Despite its practicality, some feel it has a cold look.

RECYCLED MATERIALS

A number of manufacturers offer surfaces made with recycled material, including glass, paper and even aluminum. Many of them are created by mixing resin with post-consumer or postindustrial scrap. The finished product is typically durable and stain-resistant, and damaged areas can be buffed out.

Recycled counters can be eye-catching. Metal and recycled glass counters, such as Alkemi, IceStone and EnviroGLAS, boast vibrant colors. Paperstone and Richlite, two recycled paper counters, appear more muted, but are extremely tough. These relatively new products are attractive options for homes built to green standards. ♦

Creating Character

Designing a unique kitchen or bath doesn't have to be costly. Try these clever ideas for a wallet-wise, one-of-a-kind look.

WRITTEN BY GINEVRA PYLANT

BATHROOM

- 1 **DOCTOR'S ORDERS** Add a healthy dose of pattern and color to the inside of your medicine cabinet. Remove the shelves, then use spray adhesive to line the back of the cabinet with craft paper or wallpaper scraps.
- 2 **TAILOR-MADE** Spruce up a set of plain store-bought towels with custom trim. Select thick grosgrain ribbon that suits your style, then stitch it along the edges of your linens.
- 3 **BAR NONE** Hang a peg rack or an assortment of coat hooks instead of a traditional towel bar. Or fashion simple, rustic hooks from sturdy branches with good angles. Use a fine-toothed saw to make clean cuts, sand the edges and drill two holes for mounting.
- 4 **WASTE NOT** Repurpose everyday items into one-of-a-kind accessories: A galvanized metal bucket or ceramic planter is an unusual trash can, and screw-top jelly jars are cool catchalls for cottonballs, cotton swabs and bath salts.
- 5 **ART INSTALLATION** Adhesive decals transform a blank wall into a striking mural. An alternative to wallpaper and stencils, they add graphic punch and are easily removable.
- 6 **ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY** Treat the bathroom like any other room in the house by introducing natural elements such as a potted plant or fresh flowers.
- 7 **MODEST BEGINNINGS** Off-the-shelf vanity cabinets get an extreme makeover with high-gloss paint. Go the whole hog or use painter's tape to outline a thin faux trim in a peppy hue.



- 8 **GRAND ENTRANCE** Trade in your standard door for a vintage model. Scavenge salvage stores for one with interesting architectural details, then slap on a fresh coat of paint or leave it as is for a distressed, weathered appearance.

Resources

BUYING GUIDE

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

Pages 28–29

Page 30: *Designer*, Linda Jennings, Jennings & Company. *Contractor*, Ampersand Renovation and Construction. *Farmhouse door*, The Cat's Meow Antique Store. *Tub*, Sunrise Specialty.

Page 31: *Wallpaper*, Devonwood Damask in Green from Damask Resource Vol II, and *window treatment fabric*, Sherman Stripe in Yellow from Stripe Resource Vol III; both Thibaut.

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Pages 34–35: *Architect*, James Meyer, LeanArch, Inc. *Wood floor installation*, Tarek Chamma. *Wood floors*, Universal Hardwood. *Stove, hood, oven and microwave*, Gaggenau. *Cabinets*, Max's Custom Cabinets. *Kitchen sink*, Blanco. *Ceilings*, Eco Timber. *Paint*, Dunn-Edwards. *Lights*, Delta Light.

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Plaster wall treatment, Judy Dibble; Brookwood Designs. *Curtain fabrication*, Marco Carmo. *Cookware*, Le Creuset. *Floral design*, Peggy Lamb, Botanica. *Furnishings, antiques and fabrics*, through F.D. Hodge Interiors & Antiques.

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