

## Warmus Senior Living Communities It's Home

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**Warmus Senior Living Communities** is home!



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In The City of Green

Locally and Family Owned and Managed

## Hardware makes a huge difference in a room's appearance

By Jill Sell Akron Beacon Journal Homes & Living



Smiley Collection  
BY HAPNY HOME

Grabbing hold of a 14 3/8-inch cabinet pull that looks like a not-too-friendly snake is not most people's idea of a good time. The antique brass snake pull, from the Eclectic Collection by Siro Designs, is beautifully designed. But many of us would rather not have our cabinet or furniture hardware appear menacing.

The good news is that there is an endless assortment of hardware styles, shapes, sizes, materials, themes and prices. No one should have to settle for knobs, pulls or handles they don't like. Hardware is also very important. It can instantly change the way we perceive cabinetry or a room.

"The style of hardware can be transitional, modern or more rustic," said Sara Lytle, a designer and project manager for Cabinet-S-Top in Medina. "You can change a basic cabinet style by adding particular hardware. You can take a basic Shaker-style cabinet and create many design styles just with hardware."

It's hard to go wrong choosing the "right" hardware for your needs if you stick with a simple classic design. But current trends and preferences sometimes can have an influence on your secondary decisions.

"We are seeing more knobs put back on upper

cabinets rather than all pulls in kitchens," said Lytle. "It's key to combine styles and color finishes to really create an interest in cabinetry and call out certain areas of a kitchen with that more elaborate hardware."

Although black hardware has been popular for a while, and is still dramatic and beautiful, Lytle said the black itself is changing. Look for matte or aged black or what she calls a "carbon" rather than a solid, harsh black finish. We also are not going retro to 1980s brash brass, but more to an aged or champagne-toned brass.

"In transitional kitchens, we are still doing quite a bit of brushed nickel. Sometimes brushed nickel gets a bad rap because people think of it just associate with the 1990s. But it can be used in a positive way and it depends on the color of your cabinets and walls. Sometimes brushed nickel is the best option. It has its place for sure," said Lytle, who also warned that polished finishes in high traffic areas will show fingerprints quite easily.

The size of hardware is another consideration and should complement, but not usually detract from cabinetry or furniture.

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• It's impossible to look at a knob from the Smiley  
Collection and not smile back. Created by the hard-  
ware designer Hapny Home, the 100 percent brass  
knobs are available in polished nickel, satin brass  
and venetian bronze finishes. The affordable little  
smiley faces are an adorable addition to kids' rooms,  
bathrooms, utility rooms, home offices -- anywhere  
you need a bit of joy.

We wonder, however, if after a while this perpetu-  
al optimism will just be annoying. Maybe on one of  
your bad hair days and you'll just want to put a piece  
of masking tape over its happy face. Information:  
[MyKnobs.com](http://MyKnobs.com).

• Sometimes you just want a simple elegance. Last  
month, Jeffrey Alexander by Hardware Resources

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