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Kitchen & Bath Trends

Thursday, August 30, 2018

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Also trending are new colors like sunset bronze from Whirlpool corporation, a unique rose gold color that brings a warmer vibe to kitchens and dining areas.

Tips for purchasing new kitchen appliances:

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Illuminating Ideas

Choosing the best lighting for your kitchen and bath

Overhead lighting can provide an overall ambient light level in the room. Here, a unique, modern chandelier infuses a bathroom with both warmth and elegance.

By Erik J. Martin | CTW Features

Homeowners get a lot of bright ideas in two of the most important rooms in their homes – the kitchen and bathroom – so it makes sense that these areas be properly illuminated with carefully chosen artificial lighting sources.

After all, these are the spaces, respectively, where food masterpieces are created and people gather and where new hairstyles are tried, personal grooming is attended to, and magazines are read while sitting on the throne. Using the ideal hardware for these tasks can brighten your day –literally and figuratively.

But many consumers pick the wrong fixtures and bulbs and/or position them in the wrong spots. Experts say making the right choices can make a big difference.

In the Kitchen

Mark Kruger, a Hamden, Connecticut-based architectural lighting designer, believes that lighting is one of the most important elements in a well-designed kitchen.

“The kitchen is often the centralized focal point or hub of your home.

As such, it serves multiple purposes that need to be addressed with style, finesse and appropriate lighting levels,” says Kruger. “For example, food preparation requires controlled brightness and almost no shadows on cutting surfaces, cooking stations and assembly areas.”

Shila Scarlet Griffith, an interior designer near Philadelphia, seconds that point.

“For practical purposes, you should be able to clearly see what you’re doing in the kitchen – a place where knives and other sharp tools are used. Secondly, lighting influences how fresh the food looks,” says Griffith. “Consider that warmer tones make eating areas feel cozier, and the colors of food are typically warm reds, oranges and yellows—therefore, warm light enhances those tones. But cooler lights dull warm colors, making them look grayer.”

What’s more, a handsome fixture can make a strong impression.

See LIGHTING | 6



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LIGHTING

from page 4



Bulky, dim under-cabinet lighting was upgraded to high-efficiency LED strips. Drama was brought into this eat-in kitchen by installing a striking fixture above the dining table. Photo courtesy Plate 3.

“Using slightly oversized fixtures above an island, like pendant lights, can serve as a dramatic focal point,” notes Maureen Hodor, designer with Kitchens by Design in St. Simons Island, Georgia.

For best results, Justin Riordan, founder of Portland, Oregon-headquartered Spade and Archer Design Agency, suggests installing a combination of overhead lighting (that casts light straight down), under-cabinet lighting and, if you have an island, a decorative fixture suspended above it.

“Overhead lighting is great for providing an ambient light level in the room; but our bodies can easily cast a shadow on the countertop surfaces we’re working on,” Riordan says. “Using under-counter lighting will help illuminate any of these shadows.”

Overhead lighting is typically provided in the form of recessed can lighting, installed in the ceiling, that uses bulbs. Under-cabinet lighting

sources include LED tape or strips that can be easily fastened to the bottom of upper cabinets, especially above a sink. Depending on your island, two to three medium- to large-sized pendant lights powered by smaller bulbs are often recommended.

“These different light sources should be controlled independently on dimmer switches, so that you can turn on only the overhead lights or turn off the pendant lights for maximum lighting flexibility,” says Columbia-Maryland-based architect/remodeler Jim Molinelli.

When shopping for fixtures, “pay attention to scale. Selecting fixtures that are too big or small will affect their impact and the look you’re trying to achieve. New fixtures should also pair well with your current style,” Hodor says. “You don’t necessarily have to match tones and metals—it’s okay, for example, to select a pendant with a touch of brass as an accent even if your faucet and hardware are chrome.”

Bulb choice is arguably more important than the fixtures or their placement, many pros agree. Molinelli insists that LED or incandescent bulbs are best—provided they are the right color temperature.

“The ideal range for kitchen lighting is 2,700 to 3,200 degrees Kelvin, which makes human skin look more natural and many food products look more appetizing,” says Molinelli.

In the Bathroom

Having proper lighting in your bath or powder room is equally important.

“This is a space where doing things such as applying makeup or shaving requires being able to see things at a smaller scale. You want to be able to clearly view what you’re doing in detail, which can make you look and feel great,” Griffith says.

Many homeowners make a big mistake when it comes to bathroom lighting: they rely solely on a fixture that mounts above the mirror. This creates shadows on the face that can make you look older and fatigued and which makes it harder to accurately determine how effective your grooming is.

Instead, Riordan recommends placing light sconces on each side of your mirror closer to eye level.

“In addition, it’s smart to put in overhead lighting to provide an overall ambient light level in the room,” adds Riordan.

Also, a recessed can light directly above the toilet or in the shower is a nice option for extra illumination in those areas, Hodor suggests. She notes that showers and tubs—especially ones served by opaque curtains or doors—often lack needed illumination.

Remember, however, that lights within or near shower or tub areas should be UL listed and approved for those specific applications.

“All electrical circuits in the bathroom must also be GFCI protected, too,” Kruger cautions. “And be sure to utilize suitably sized copper wiring—not cheaper aluminum lighting. This is why it’s best to hire professionals to handle all your electrical wiring.”

Lastly, as with kitchens, incandescent or LED bulbs in the 2,700 to 3,200 degrees Kelvin range are the ideal choice for bathrooms, Molinelli says.

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Cabinetry and Stone Depot: Mundy Street, Wilkes-Barre

Cabinetry and Stone Depot, located on 213 Mundy Street in Wilkes-Barre, has been providing NEPA with quality cabinets, granite countertops and hardware since their store's opening in 2008.

Their 4,000 square foot showroom showcases cabinets from traditional to modern painted white and grey to classic and sophisticated coffee maple. They also have a great selection of Natural Granite and Quartz countertops.

Cabinetry and Stone Depot has the area's largest inventory of all wood cabinets and customers can see up to 60% savings compared to their competitors. Their granite prices are anywhere from \$5 - \$30 less per square foot than home improvement stores.

The reason for the break in pricing is because Cabinetry and Stone Depot templates, fabricates and installs. This allows them to keep the cost low – passing on the savings to their customers.

Owner, David Wong, takes pride in helping find the right products for his customers' homes.

"The best advice I can give a customer is don't focus too much on the pricing in the beginning states. We don't charge to do [kitchen] layouts and quotes," David says. "Pick what you want and get a price. If it's over your budget we can work it down from there."

All that is needed for a quote are rough measurements of the space and a selection of the products the customer would like to feature in their home. It is often suggested to pick a counter color that would offer contrast in the kitchen.

For example, if your space has light cabinets and a light floor, a darker countertop would make the kitchen a focal point in your home.

Cabinetry and Stone Depot also offers free samples of the cabinet and countertop.

"Being able to take samples home allows the customer to visualize how their choices will look," David says. He goes on to say that kitchens are something homeowners remodel once - "it's good to have a design that you want at prices that work for your budget."

A helpful staff of professionals is available to help with design and installation. Cabinets are typically ready in 10 to 14 days and countertops can be installed as fast as 7 days after your template.

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Cabinetry and Stone Depot kitchen. Aimee Dilger|TimesLeader

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"Our standards are their upgrades," David says.

Cabinetry and Stone Depot's solid wood doors, all plywood construction, dovetailed drawers, and soft close hinges and tracks are products that are offered at standard prices, while their competitors offer them at a high (upgraded) rate.

"Our standards are their upgrades"

Cabinetry and Stone Depot is truly a "one stop shop" for all your kitchen needs. Check out their selection online at www.cabinetryandstonedepot.com or visit Cabinetry and Stone Depot today if you're looking to remodel your home's kitchen or bathroom – no appointments are necessary.



Image courtesy Lexmar USA.

In the Kitchen: Best and Worst Trends Right Now

Appliances in rich colors, quartz
countertops couldn't be hotter

By Nancy Mattia | CTW Features

Navy refrigerators. Open shelving. The farmhouse aesthetic. Today's kitchen trends are so appealing, it's hard to pick just a few for your renovation or mini makeover. (Don't do all of them!) Check out the trends below – among the most popular of the current crop – and decide which ones appeal the most to you.

Quartz Countertops

The mighty granite countertop has been in stiff competition with quartz lately, and it looks like the latter may be winning. It's easy to see why: Quartz, which is man-made from natural stone and resin, is maintenance free, so sealing it isn't necessary as with granite. It's also nonporous, so if you spill the traditionally worst offenders—oil, coffee, or red wine—on it, you'll see it won't stain like an all-natural stone such as granite. Add in quartz's many color varieties and patterns, and you've got a scorecard where the plusses add up.

See TRENDS | 10



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TRENDS

from page 9



Bold Colors

Look-at-me hues like yellow and navy are all over kitchen design these days, from backsplashes to appliances. “Adding interest through color is a natural way to express your personality and creativity,” says Suzanne DeRusha, content marketing and design manager at Elkay, a manufacturer of sinks, faucets, and kitchen cabinets. But don’t overdo the color surge: If you’re installing bright yellow cabinets, for example, use lots of neutrals, like white or gray, in the rest of the room, so that those canary cabinets can take center stage.

Eliminating Some Cabinets

Less storage – and less clutter – is actually a modern alternative to wall-to-wall cabinetry which, says DeRusha, “gives no relief to the eye from an artistic perspective.” Instead of wall-to-wall, create a design statement by incorporating open shelving and backsplashes. This “less is more” treatment gives a nod to the growing popularity of contemporary design where a sleek look makes an up-to-date statement.

Adding a Farmhouse Element

You don’t have to go full-on farmhouse with an apron sink or bead board to incorporate the look into your kitchen decor. “Farmhouse is a trend that’s inviting and comfortable and would fit into a variety of style categories, from traditional to transitional, without becoming overwhelmingly ‘country,’” says DeRusha.

There are simple and subtle ways to include that casual feel in a design, like with open shelving, brackets, and patterned wall tile or planks, or a rustic hood.

See TRENDS | 11

TRENDS

from page 10



Trends that are better left off your list include:

Pastels

“Pastel colors have popped up this year and, in my opinion, they will move quickly through the trend cycle and potentially leave the homeowner with regret,” says DeRusha. So if you were thinking of purchasing a refrigerator that’s the color of pink lemonade, think crimson instead!

Monotonous Metals

Matchy-matchy equals boring. When all the metals in the kitchen—from the faucets to the cabinet pulls—have the exact same sheen, texture, and color, everything will blend together. Instead, “use one metal on two or three items,” says DeRusha, “then shift the other items into tones or sheens that are either similar or contrast completely like a polished metal instead of brushed.”

© CTW Features



The latest trends to improve that real estate over the sink

By Erik J. Martin | CTW Features

Those handsome cabinets, snazzy appliances and well-equipped island may make you beam with pride as a homeowner. But the kitchen area that's most likely to catch the eye and impress visitors is actually that small stretch of wall hovering above the sink – better known as the backsplash. To skimp on this important design element and vertical plane of practicality is to miss out on an opportunity to make a grand statement in your home's most important room, experts believe.

"The backsplash is a focal point in most kitchens and an integral key to its overall aesthetic," Alissa Bennett, design manager for Kolter Homes in DeLand, Fla., says. "It's a prime location to incorporate something unique and fun with color and patterns, and the options are endless."

See BACKSPASHES | 13



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BACKSPLASHES

from page 12

From a more pragmatic point of view, the backsplash serves as an “easily washable surface that protects kitchen walls from getting dirty or stained,” says David Yowell of David Yowell Construction in McKinney, Texas. “It not only complements your countertops and adds color, depth and beauty to the room but it makes your kitchen look cleaner.”

A Houzz Kitchen Trends Study published this year found that nine in 10 kitchen renovating homeowners surveyed upgraded their backsplash. Respondents revealed that the most popular backsplash colors in 2017 were white (chosen by 36 percent), multicolored (19 percent), gray (13 percent), beige (8 percent) and blue (5 percent). In fact, white backsplashes are nearly twice as likely to appear in the renovated kitchens of millennials than in those of baby boomers.

While many homeowners choose ceramic, porcelain or glass tile for their backsplash, stone is also popular – with marble, travertine, granite and quartz among the most preferred stone choices, respectively, per the aforementioned survey.

Houzz editor Mitchell Parker has observed two prominent backsplash trends so far in 2018.

“First, we’re seeing people installing scalloped or fish-scale pattern tile as an alternative to the simple subway tile look,” Parker notes. “This look offers more movement and a bit more interest than rectangular tile but is still versatile enough to work with almost any kitchen style.”

Secondly, he’s noticing that homeowners prefer the versatile patterns and appearance of wallpaper – minus the paper.

“There’s a new tile that looks like wallpaper that we’re seeing people put in their kitchens. It’s prized for offering an elaborate pattern look of modern-day wallpapers while being durable enough to wipe down



Marble, travertine, granite and quartz are among the most preferred stone choices for backsplashes.

with a sponge and detergent,” says Parker.

Bennett, meanwhile, points to a different trendy transition.

“Many homeowners are moving from natural stone to a brightly colored mosaic look. But that’s not to say that natural stone or granite are going out of style,” says Yowell.

Leslie Bowman, owner/design director of Chicago-based interior design firm The Design Bar, has created her share of full-height marble backsplashes lately – either book-matched or laid-straight marble.

“Also, we’re working with a new product that’s a large-format thin porcelain tile that homeowners love because it’s much thinner than typical marble or granite yet offers movement that’s beautiful and realistic,” says Bowman, adding that cement tiles are also trending.

Among Bennett’s customers, elongated shapes in glass, marble and stone are hot.

“Additionally, we’re seeing a significant desire for texture and pattern to contrast the simplicity of quartz and marble countertop surfaces,” says Bennett. “From monochromatic stone hexagons and ovals to herringbone installation and arabesque shapes, consumers today are drawn to texture in their backsplashes.”

If you want to maintain a timeless and classic look that won’t date so quickly, yet still infuse modernity and excitement into your backsplash design, Bowman has several recommendations.

“Choose a unique grout color, such as white tile with gray grout. Or, mix up the pattern – do a chevron, or lay the tile vertically instead of horizontally,” says Bowman. “Avoid picking anything too trendy, as you will likely live with your backsplash for up to 10 years or more and should love it.”

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Find the Right Recipe for Your Kitchen

Why your next kitchen remodel should be
driven by the way you cook

By Marilyn Kennedy Melia | CTW Features

When it comes to kitchens, we're all suckers for glamour and gleam.

And, the bevy of home-related TV programming generously feeds our attraction. But before set your sights on a European oven or ceiling-high cabinetry, consider first: What really goes on in your kitchen?

Cooking, for sure, but we have different cooking styles, finds an in-depth report from the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) that links needed kitchen elements and design with meal and cooking habits.

Luckily, glamour isn't sacrificed in the pursuit of functionality. Indeed, the NKBA study of 800 adults who recently remodeled their kitchen or are planning to soon, shows that updated style and design was a priority for all, whatever culinary segment they fell into.

See KITCHEN | 19

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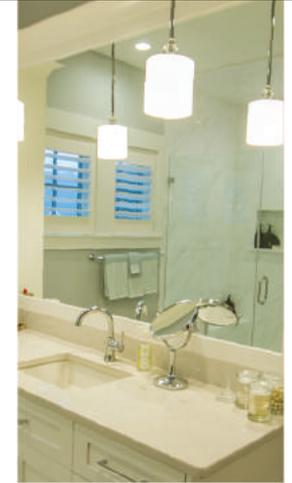
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KITCHEN

from page 15

Below, see which style cook best defines you, and what features, appliances and overall kitchen design the experts say fit you.

1. The Struggling Cook

What defines you: Does scrambling through the freezer, looking for ways to whip up dinner for a hungry crew at the end of a busy workday sound familiar? You have plenty of company: NKBA finds about half of us are time-constrained and seek to minimize the time and effort of food shopping, meal prep and clean-up.

You are more likely than the other half of “confident” cooks to share kitchen duties with a spouse or partner. Many of you have tried meal kits, and rely on frozen and prepared food to get dinner on the table in a pinch.

Your kitchen gets good use, though, if not always for cooking. It's the space for the kind of low-key, easy entertaining you prefer, with guests often pitching in, bringing a dish to share.

In fact, non-cooking uses often take priority in a remodel, like a space for kids to toss backpacks or do homework

Design tips: Drill down into your daily habits, to find your particular needs within the broader “struggling” cook category, says Elle H-Millard, a certified kitchen designer for industry relations, NKBA.

For instance, “If one of you does the food prep, and the other clean-up, you may want extra clearance between counters and an island, and ensure there's a clear workflow pattern for each,” says H-Millard.

Or, if you're both busy with food-prep, your priority might be adding another sink.

If there's as much non-cooking activity in the kitchen as meal prep, features that do double-duty may be the answer.

A homework desk can be fashioned from existing lower cabinets, while gaining refrigerator space, for instance, explains H-Millard. Refrigerator drawers that don't protrude as far as the original cabinet space can be tucked underneath the newly fashioned-desk, “and you can reach down for a drink when you're sitting there,” she adds.

Since this category tends to entertain informally in the kitchen, refrigerator drawers are also a good option, to simply reach down, grab a prepared food and place it on the counter.

For the very time-pressed, H-Millard enthusiastically recommends induction cook-tops. In the past decade, the price has been sliced by more than half – “you can get one for about \$800” – but they boil a pot of water nearly instantly, and are safe because the surface won't heat paper or other materials that mistakenly land there.”

2. The Confident Cook

What defines you: Meal planning is one of your skills, whether it's keeping a running grocery list so you don't run out of needed items, timing a dinner when all the family can eat together or preparing items ahead of time when you're having guests.

Indeed, entertaining is fun for you, and you're inviting friends and family over more than most – at least nine times a year. Sometimes, you host a sit-down dinner, and on other occasions it's a more casual kitchen gathering.



Refrigerator drawers make kitchens easy entertainment/bar zones. Here, The Galley Fumed Eucalyptus Dresser & Workstation.



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KITCHEN

from page 19

Space to experiment with new recipes would be a welcome extra, because you tend to cook from scratch involving many ingredients.

One reason you work well in the kitchen is because you've organized it, but any extra storage is on your wish list.

Design tips: Your problem will be selecting from among the many appliances and devises that will enhance the culinary masterpieces you're aiming to create.

Among the notable ones, says H-Millard, are steam ovens, which preserve nutrients better than other ovens, and better produce results like cakes, which emerge crisper on the outside but moist inside. The steam oven is generally pricier.

Since confident cooks are likely to chop vegetables and fresh food rather than buying ready-cut, most will want an efficient food prep area.

Sinks outfitted with a cutting board and a wire rack that can be lifted and placed over the sink are a practical, space-saving option. And

if sometimes a large, single bowl is needed, but other times a double one, there are models with removable divides.

Sinks with an ice dispenser might be perfect for the confident cook who frequently entertains. "When the ice melts, it drips into the sink," says H-Millard.

Confident cooks tend to skew older, explains Tricia Zach, the NKBA market research analyst who parsed the study data. "They might want to investigate more accessible design," H-Millard adds.

3. The Techy Cook

What defines you: You're using your kitchen to re-charge phones and devices, and use the internet to follow recipes or make grocery lists.

Maybe you have a personal assistant device on the counter so you don't even have to mark on an item on the list yourself, but just call out a command and it's done. Or, when you're cooking, you can watch a wall-mounted, flat-screen

TV, that's still in view of other family members who might be comfortably seated nearby in an open plan room.

Manufacturers are rolling out more "smart" appliances, but adoption is slow because consumers tend not to replace until they need to or are remodeling, says Zach.

Design tips: Anyone with a techy bent will love refrigerators with tiny cameras inside that can be wireless connected to a smartphone.

"When you're in the grocery store, you can call up pictures of what's inside, so you know what you need," says H-Millard.

The time-pressed will appreciate smartphone links to an oven, "so you can pre-heat when you're driving home, and save 20 minutes on dinner prep," she adds.

Tech means convenience, whether it's motion-sensors that turn on task lighting when you approach, or grocery lists made with voice commands, she concludes.

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Why choose Re-Bath?

There are several reasons why ReBath Northeast differs from other acrylic companies and bathroom contractors. First, we tear the shower area (particularly the walls) down to the studs, update plumbing and install new backer board. Much of our competition does not do this. Second, we don't sub contract. Every person the customer speaks to or sees works directly for our company and has been thoroughly vetted. Third: Our installations of the tub and shower area are done in as little as one day. Our full bath installations are done in as little as two to three days. Fourth: we have a large selection of colors and styles. Customers love us for many of the reasons I have listed. They love that we don't sub contract and are in and out of their home quickly, without sacrificing quality installation. It helps that our staff and our installers are particularly personable too.

How long does a typical bathroom remodel take?

The shower area generally takes just one day. To remove and replace flooring, vanity, toilet, mirror, light can add another day or two depending on how much work. Generally, our full bathroom remodels take three days or less.

What is the process of a remodel? From start to estimated finish time?

When a customer is ready to remodel their bathroom, they can either stop in to one of our two showrooms or call us on the phone to make an appointment for the estimator to come to their home.

If the customer comes to the showroom first, they get to see all of our colors, styles and products and touch and feel them. If the customer calls us first, that's great, too.

Our estimators bring all the samples right to their home. At the in-home meeting, the estimator will talk to them about what they want to see in a new bathroom, as well as measure and give them an exact price. The estimator will also walk them through what an installation looks like. If the customer agrees to the price and can pick everything out, an agreement is

written up.

The following week the products will be ordered. A few weeks later, when all of the products have arrived and been checked, our production manager will call the customer to schedule. On the day of install, the installers will arrive early in the morning and get to work. They will lay drop cloths through the pathway they take through the house so they don't make a mess. Before they start the job, they go over the agreement with the customer to make sure everything is correct. They will also ask the customer where they want certain accessories. After that, they get to work.

Our installers take the tub or shower out and the walls in the bathtub area, right to the studs. They update the plumbing and drain in that area. They will also install new mold resistant backer board. The day continues on from there, with the installers working on plumbing, setting the tub or shower base, installing the acrylic wall panels, faucet, shower doors and accessories. The whole time the installers are working they are making sure the area stays as clean as possible by vacuuming and keeping the dust out of other parts of the house.

By mid to late afternoon, the installers are finished and they can bring the customer in to see their new bathroom. After the job is done, the installers will go over what cleaning products to use and what the warranty covers.

If we are remodeling the whole bathroom the tub and shower area will take one day to complete and we will come back the following

day or two to finish the vanity, flooring, toilet, wainscoting and accessories.

Any trends or popular styles?

Easy to clean is always popular. Our acrylic walls have no grout which makes them easy to wipe down and keep clean. The vinyl tile we use for flooring is also easy to clean and can be installed without grout, which most customers love.

As far as popular styles, we see a lot of customers like whites and grays, which are very popular in the industry right now. Since our area is more traditional, almost any neutral color is popular.

Tub to shower conversions are very popular. So many people want the ease and safety of a low threshold shower base instead of tub.

Are partial remodels an option?

We are happy to help customers with just the tub or shower area, if they aren't ready to do the whole bathroom. Many of our customers will do this and then call us back a year or two later to remodel the rest of the bathroom. We don't install tub or shower only without the walls or walls only without the tub or shower.

Any tips on remodeling a bathroom?

Homeowners should do their research into who they are hiring. Read reviews, ask for referrals, ask for their insurance certificates.

Any rebates/special offers/promotions?

Right now we are offering \$1000 off a tub to shower conversion or \$700 off a tub or shower update. All they have to do is call or stop in to make the appointment and mention the newspaper ad or story.



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6 Bathroom Trends to Consider – and 2 Trends to Avoid

Hexagon floor tiles, freestanding tubs and blue sinks are just a few of bathroom's rising stars

By Nancy Mattia | CTW Features

The best part of renovating a bathroom? Picking out the colors, finishes, patterns, and shapes of everything from the flooring to the drawer pulls. Adding to the excitement is figuring which trends could work for you. Here are a few making headlines today—and some that

don't quite cut it.

Blue Vanities and Sinks

Besides neutrals, blue is the most popular color for bathroom vanities right now, says Suzanne DeRusha, content marketing and

design manager at Elkay, a manufacturer of sinks, faucets, and kitchen cabinets. "I'm seeing blues ranging from bright and saturated to almost gray. Blue sinks are less mainstream, but they're quite stunning and come in a wide range of tones." See BATHROOM | 23

BATHROOM

from page 22



Black Finishes

Going with dark touches gives a bathroom a sophisticated edge. “For flooring, black is being used in patterned tiles,” says DeRusha. “Black is typically the imprint for the design with a white or light gray backdrop.” It’s also popular in lighting and plumbing fixtures but less appealing on bathroom countertops since such a dark color makes water residue more apparent.

Mixing Metals

If black is too dramatic for you, think about using multiple classic finishes instead to make your bathroom look more contemporary. Some combos to try: nickel plumbing fixtures and oil-rubbed-bronze hardware, or polished chrome and brass. To give the room a cohesive look when you have more than one finish, create harmony by choosing fixtures in the same style.

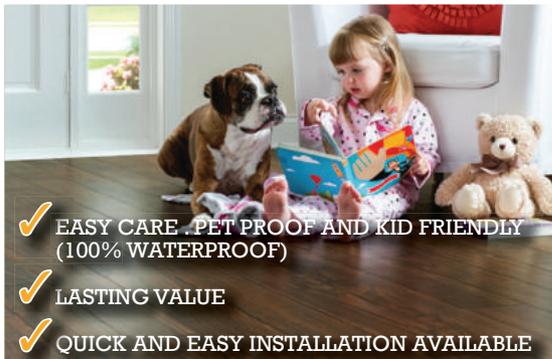
Patterned Flooring

“I’m completely in love with this trend,” says DeRusha. “Patterned flooring is so appealing because the look is anything but ordinary and reminds us of something from the past, which gives it a sense of familiarity.” Some of the most popular floor designs today are classics—chevron, herringbone, and hexagon.

Freestanding Tubs

These are all over the contemporary style category as homeowners are finding ways to replace built-in tubs and whirlpools, which can look dated. Freestanding tubs come in many different materials (cast iron, acrylic), shapes (oval, asymmetrical), and colors (gray, black) for a fresh, modern look.

See BATHROOM | 24



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BATHROOM

from page 23



Spa-Like Atmosphere

No room for a freestanding tub in your bathroom? You can still create a place to chill after a long day at work or tending to the kids. “Even in a small bathroom, this can include aromatherapy, ambient lighting, and subtle background music,” says DeRusha.

Trends that are better left off your list include:

Theme-Based Designs

Caribbean or retro are examples of styles that can be fun, but when overdone, tire easily and can be pricey to change, especially if fixtures are involved, says DeRusha. Instead, use just a few elements from a theme that wouldn't require a full-on remodel two or three years down the road.

Getting Rid of the Home's Only Tub

“Though installing a large shower can be a wonderful tradeoff, especially with an amazing spa-like multi-shower head system, potential buyers may not appreciate the value and only see that the home is lacking a bath tub,” according to DeRusha. It's an especially risky move if future buyers may be parents with small children—for them, no tub to bathe their kids in may be a deal breaker. “I'd suggest maintaining a tub with a glass divider rather than a shower door or curtain and invest in a smaller shower column system.” The look is very upscale and, along with the right wall tile, it's something that everyone can appreciate.

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Rub-a-Dub-Dub, Time for a New Tub

In the market for a new bath tub? See pages 26, 27 and 31 for tips on finding the right one for your home





Photo by Troy Thies Photography

Choosing the right tub for your bathroom renovation

By Erik J. Martin | CTW Features

It's true that most folks prefer to get clean via a shower than a bathtub nowadays. Consider the results of an Angie's List survey of 2,000 people published in 2016: 90 percent of respondents were more likely to take a shower over a bath.

Yet experts agree that the tub is hardly in danger of disappearing altogether from the great American bathroom. In fact, two in five homeowners plan to upgrade a tub during a master bath remodel, and the tub ranks in the top five (as chosen by 35 percent of those polled) among features that homeowners splurge on most during a renovation, according to the 2017 Houzz Bathroom Trends Study.

"Tubs are far from being considered obsolete," says Nino Sitchinava, principal economist with Houzz in Palo Alto, Calif. "Seventy-eight percent of homeowners who remove a tub still have another tub elsewhere in their home."

Paul Knutson, owner of St. Paul, Minn.-based Knutson Residential Design, LLC, says most people consider tubs to be an essential part of their homes.

See TUB | 27



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TUB

from page 26

“While luxury showers have overtaken luxury tubs as the centerpiece in many of their baths, they still want a tub somewhere,” says Knutson. He notes that it’s harder to sell a home without at least one bathtub in it.

If you’re planning a bathroom redo, many pros recommend replacing your existing tub or adding one that wasn’t there before. Popular styles today include:

An alcove tub, typically rectangular, recessed and installed next to three walls

A soaking tub, often deeper and/or wider to enable you to fit your entire body in the water

An air or whirlpool tub, which offers therapeutic and massaging comfort; the former injects air

into the water to make relaxing bubbles, while the latter shoots jets of H₂O to stir up the water

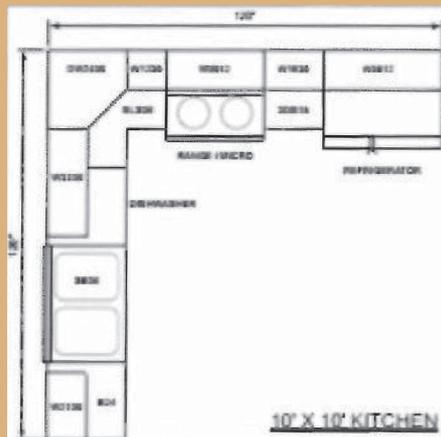
A walk-in tub, equipped with a door that allows you to walk in and out of the tub when empty – ideal for older homeowners.

These types are available as either esthetically appealing free-standing units (including claw-foot and slipper tubs) or spatially efficient built-in or corner units (available in undermount or drop-in configurations). Common materials include acrylic, cast iron, enamel on steel, fiberglass-reinforced plastic, cultured marble, and composite.

See TUB | 31

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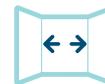
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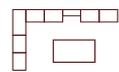
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TUB

from page 27

These types are available as either esthetically appealing freestanding units (including clawfoot and slipper tubs) or spatially efficient built-in or corner units (available in undermount or drop-in configurations). Common materials include acrylic, cast iron, enamel on steel, fiberglass-reinforced plastic, cultured marble, and composite.

“Among those upgrading their tub these days, two thirds opt for a soaking tub, followed by two in five who choose a freestanding flat-bottom tub,” Sitchinava notes, citing the aforementioned Houzz survey. “Acrylic remains the dominant tub material, chosen by 51 percent, although fiberglass and cast-iron tubs each represent a significant share of new tubs at 16 percent each.”

Spencer Shaw, owner of Re-Bath of Southern Idaho in Meridian, Idaho, recommends acrylic and soaker tubs to his clients most often.

“Acrylic tubs are non-porous, affordable, easy to clean and maintain, and have superior heat retention and warranties,” Shaw says. “And soaker tubs are usually less expensive, more functional and can be installed without requiring a full bathroom remodel, including a new floor.”

If you’re on a tight budget, you might be able to breathe new life into your existing tub by refinishing it.

“Reglazing a bathtub to like-new condition is a smart choice, as it can save up to 90 percent over the cost of replacement,” says Dani Nichols, president of Skokie-based NAPCO, a tub/tile/cabinet/counter-top refinishing company.

For best results, trust in an expert.

“It’s important to work with an experienced bathroom remodeler who understands the entire bathroom – even if the tub or shower area is the only portion of the room being remodeled,” Shaw says.

Enlisting a general contractor is wise, “but so is hiring an interior design professional, who can help you save money and avoid regrets by choosing the right bathroom design, tub style and finish,” adds Nichols.

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