

Green Kitchen Remodeling



If you're ready to remodel your kitchen and want to go green, here's how to create the healthy, energy-efficient, eco-friendly kitchen of your dreams.

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If you're planning a kitchen remodel, why not go green? Going green with your kitchen remodeling project means making choices based on your lifestyle and your budget. The decisions aren't always simple. For example, a certain green product may outlast and use less energy but cost more than a similar product that performs equally well. Fortunately, an expanding marketplace for smart, stylish green products is helping to lower costs — making it easier to have a green kitchen and love it, too.

If products you'd like to add to your project aren't readily available, schedule visits to showrooms or green home improvement expos to examine materials first-hand before making decisions. To help you plan, here are key products, ideas, and tips to put the green in your kitchen.

Major components

- Sustainable kitchen cabinets are made from wood and wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council to be produced using sustainable forest management practices. They feature formaldehyde-free glues and finishes with low volatile organic compounds that give off little or no toxic fumes. Check product literature closely to ensure the cabinets you choose meet these criteria.

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A few words from the Owner/Broker, Amanda L. Grover, SFR

Our first Free to the Public **Homebuyer's Seminar** debuted June 10th and I have to say....it was a success! I'm so proud of all the time and effort every one of us put into the presentation. It was certainly a team effort! Congratulations to the winner of our TV giveaway - *Maureen Miller* - which was donated by Oxford Capital. I'd like to thank the owner of Oxford Capital, *Nick Castronova*, and Mortgage Originator, *Maureen Davis*, for attending and adding to the valuable information presented. We hope to have more of these in the future. Here are some photos from the event!



Green Kitchen Remodeling (continued)

“..The bravest thing that you can do, is smile when things go wrong.”

Author Unknown

Green countertops offer variety but all share similar characteristics: recycled or sustainable content, low-toxicity binders, and eco-friendly manufacturing processes. In addition, they're highly durable. Examples: Squak Mountain Stone is made from recycled paper, recycled glass, reclaimed fly ash, and cement. The finished countertop slabs resemble limestone and soapstone. Eco-top counters consist of renewable bamboo fiber, post-consumer recycled paper, and water-based resin glue. *Vetrazzo* makes countertops that are 85% recycled glass—almost all the glass comes from curbside recycling programs. *Craft-Art* includes a line of wood countertops made of reclaimed wood from older barns, warehouses, and commercial buildings.

- Eco-friendly flooring includes linoleum and cork. Both are made with renewable resources that make them sustainable choices. They're good-looking and durable, but require periodic maintenance.

Linoleum is made from renewable, biodegradable materials including linseed oil and cork. It produces no harmful vapors and comes in many patterns and colors. Linoleum stands up well to traffic and offers some cushioning underfoot. It's resistant to moisture but susceptible to staining, so some manufacturers add a coating to protect against spills and scratches. Without this protection, linoleum must be cleaned and polished every two years. Cost: \$2 to \$4 per sq.ft.; installation adds \$5 to \$7 per sq.ft.

Cork is a sustainable flooring product made from tree bark; the bark grows back and can be harvested repeatedly. Harvesting practices are carefully regulated to ensure future supplies, reducing environmental impact. Cork is waterproof and slightly soft underfoot, which makes it both moisture-resistant and comfortable. It's made in 12x12-inch tiles and 1x3-foot planks, each with a distinctive grain pattern. The surface is

slightly textured and slip-resistant.

Treat cork flooring with a sealant every 3 to 4 years to prevent scratches and stop moisture from penetrating seams between tiles. Natural wax and water-based polyurethane work well. Cost: \$2-\$6 per sq.ft.; installation, \$5-\$10 per sq.ft.

Appliances

- Choosing Energy Star products reduces energy consumption and saves utility costs. Energy Star appliances are tested and rated to be the most energy-efficient models in any product category. In addition, some states and regional utility companies offer rebates for buying Energy Star appliances.

- Dishwashers go green when they feature an energy-saving or quick-wash cycle. These cycles operate for shorter periods of time, saving water and energy. Also, look for dishwashers that include an air-dry option, which dries dishes with circulation fans rather than energy-draining heating elements. Or, simply open up the dishwasher door when the wash cycle is complete and let dishes air dry.

Energy Star models are 25% more energy efficient than the federal standards for energy consumption. If you replace your pre-1994 dishwasher with an Energy Star model, you'll save as much as \$40 a year on energy costs.

- Buy a new refrigerator and you'll save on energy costs. That's because manufacturers are constantly improving technology and insulating techniques. In fact, today's new models are 75% more energy efficient than those manufactured just 20 years ago, saving about \$100 per year on energy costs. An Energy Star-rated model will save an additional \$20-\$30 per year.

Choose models featuring the freezer on top and use 10% to 25% less energy than a same-

sized model with a side-by-side configuration.

Green essentials

- An under-the-counter water purifier cleans water of contaminants before it reaches the kitchen tap; it has about 10 times the filtering capacity of a faucet-mounted purifier. A model with a top-quality activated carbon filter will remove heavy metals, bacteria, and pesticides. In addition, it removes odors and bad tastes. Expect to pay \$150-\$200 for an activated charcoal purifier with a replaceable cartridge.

- Energy-efficient lighting includes fluorescent and compact fluorescent lamps that use 50% to 90% less energy than comparable incandescent lamps. In fact, according to *Ener-gyStar.gov*, a single compact fluorescent bulb will save \$30-\$40 during its expected lifespan of 10,000 hours over conventional incandescent bulbs of similar luminosity. However, consider the correct quality of light, such as an efficient halogen and LED lighting sources, for task areas.

- Being an active recycler is one way to ensure your kitchen is green. Most cabinet manufacturers offer options for lower cabinets that include pull-out recycling bins that keep contents organized and out of sight. In some instances, these bins are designed to be positioned conveniently beneath holes in countertops so that you can sweep food scraps into them. You can also retrofit existing cabinets with recycling bins—rotating lazy Susan-type recycling centers feature multiple bins and are designed to fit in lower corner cabinets.

John Riha has written seven books on home improvement and hundreds of articles on home-related topics. He's been a residential builder, the editorial director of the *Black & Decker Home Improvement Library*, and the executive editor of *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine. Follow John on *Google+*. HouseLogic on Facebook



Get to Know Our Team! Some Things That Might Surprise You...



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BRING ON THE GOOD WEATHER (AND LESS RAIN, WE HOPE!). THE KIDS ARE EXCITED TO BE OUT OF SCHOOL SOON AND WE'LL HONESTLY BE HAPPY TO NOT HAVE THE SCHOOL ROUTINE FOR A FEW MONTHS! LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING MY HANDS IN THE DIRT AND DOING SOME WEEDING IN THE FLOWER BEDS. THERE'S A FEW SUMMER DATES LEFT TO RENT AT OUR CABIN IN OLD FORGE - IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, LET US KNOW.

IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE THE WARM WEATHER — WE HAVE BEEN SUPER BUSY WITH LISTING AND SELLING HOMES, WHICH MEANS MEETING NEW PEOPLE AND HELPING THEM WITH THEIR FUTURE. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SPENDING SOME TIME UP IN OLD FORGE AND WANETA LAKE BETWEEN THE RAIN DROPS! WANETA LAKE HAS HAD ENOUGH RAIN FOR THIS SUMMER YA THINK!!!!



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REALLY ENJOYING THE START OF THE SUMMER SEASON. I'M READY FOR SOME SUN RATHER THAN RAIN THOUGH. SEEING LOTS OF BABY WILDLIFE COMING OUT IN MY TRAVELS! MY FL DAUGHTER HAS A NEW BATCH OF PUPPIES! GOOD THING SHE'S NOT CLOSE OR I'D PROBABLY HAVE ONE.

RECENTLY SPENT A WEEKEND IN VERMONT DOING AN ADVENTURE CHALLENGE WITH MY DOG THAT I RECENTLY ADOPTED FROM THE SHELTER. LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING MANY MORE ADVENTURES WITH HER. LOTS GOING ON BUT NEVER TOO BUSY FOR YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS!

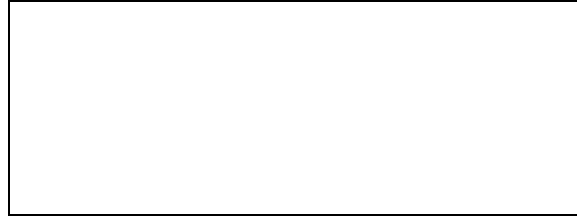
FINALLY! WARM WEATHER, OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES, FAMILY GET TOGETHERS, SWIMMING - WHATEVER WAY YOU CHOOSE TO SPEND YOUR SUMMER LEISURE TIME, I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE ME A CALL TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR NEW HOME AND HELP YOU SELL YOUR OLD ONE! :) FAST, HONEST, DEPENDABLE - THAT'S ME!

JUNE HAS PROVEN TO BE ALMOST AS BUSY AS MAY WAS! MY DAUGHTER'S WEDDING WAS BEAUTIFUL WITH MANY MEMORABLE MOMENTS. I'M ENJOYING AN ARRAY OF COLORS FROM MY GARDENS AND LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING MY GRANDBOYS MORE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. OH, AND JUST SAYING...MY CO-WORKERS AT AGRE ARE AWESOME!!



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FEATURED PROPERTIES



13226 Pond Rd., Butler, NY

Fantastic 111 Acre Estate!

Town of BUTLER - Lovingly preserved, updated 1880's 5 BR home. Mature landscape, water feature, vinyl fenced pasture, 24x24 barn w/loft, woods, open meadows & (6) acre pond! Call Team King **585.703.4714** or **585.703.5835** \$449,900



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AmandaGroverRealEstate.com
