

This Old House

124 PACKED PAGES!

Kitchen & Bath ISSUE

Free
Family Project
Booklet
Inside

Easy project:
Install wood
countertops
P. 65

Inside:

32 low-cost, high-style product picks
4 real-world remodels
15 bath-storage solutions
A dream kitchen from Craigslist
Be a better painter...for just \$5

SEPTEMBER 2008
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FAMILIES GATHERED
AROUND."

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WORK STRONG

letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

Oops! I Did It Again

WHEN I HAVE AN IDEA, it is rarely a good one. Many people will verify this. My brothers will trip over each other to be the rash co-signer. My mother will denounce...at first. My wife will say, "I know you meant well!" and very little more.

And I certainly did mean well when, hell, we y through our bathroom remodel, I decided to depart from the blueprint to make creative use of leftover floor tiles. I intended the extra 18-inch squares of marble as a "wasteline." You can see it there, between courses of ceramic subway tile, just above my foot. The idea was to position the accent so that it pleasingly raised the room right up to the tub deck, which, in perfect alignment, it would enter so gracefully into the marble slab that you won't let the tub's surrounding deck. Except now the tub doesn't have a deck.

You see, the blueprint originally specified a slab of 3-inch marble, which would allow... But my scheme required leaving maybe only top-up as 1 1/2 inches of stone, which, unbeknownst to me at the time, gets pretty—first 3/8, by way of example, a slab of 3-inch costs \$1, then 1 1/2-inch marble is \$1 multiplied by 2, and 1 1/2-inch, equal to two times more than double, maybe triple the money money per inch. Of course, I didn't realize any of this until after I left that 1 1/2-inch gap for the deck and finished the tiling. So now I broke in a rock pot while the tub goes unfinished and I scrimp dollars here and there for our newly cramped marble floor.

People are supposed to learn from their mistakes and get wiser. Smarter people learn from the mistakes of others and get smarter still. That's why I know you'll like to hear the lesson here, which is rather "you live, you learn, you go broke!" or don't go off the plan without a plan. Take your pick. And please check out page 56, where other TOLH writers share their own remodeling mistakes. By the time you're done, you could pass for me. Plus you'll have a good laugh at our expense.

SCOTT ORELLANA
EDITOR

P.S. Blunder aside, this is our second kitchen-and-bath issue. It's all top-notch, but my favorite story's on page 72. It shows you how to get a high-class kitchen for a low price. Have a read. I promise. It won't be another.



When the tub's marble deck isn't going to be the better road ahead!

People may learn from their mistakes, but smarter people learn from the mistakes of others—like mine, for example.



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We heard you loud and clear: Letter writers among you really liked the reader-created June issue, especially the tips from all your fellow homeowners. So here's a bunch more advice on everything from flushing a clogged tub drain to finding a wall stud.



Clear the Drain, Fast

After washing our dog, Patrick, the bathtub became "stagnant" with hair. I tried snaking it, with no success. That's when my wife Allison sprayed some hair remover down the drain. I could not believe it. After 15 minutes, the drain was working better than it had in months.

—CHRISTOPHER WOODKENT, IL



Easy Paint Tray Cleanup

Insert a new tray into a drawstring kitchen trash bag. Pull the straps tight and tuck them under the tray. Pour paint into the bag, covered tray. When you're done painting, pull the bag back over the tray, taking it outside. Now off to the landfill. It's inside the bag, and not a drop on the tray.

—STEPHEN SCHWARTZ, IL

Slick Nail Driver

I am a 50-year-old and have a long list of projects. I have a small piece of wood like oak, you can rub a barbed wire nail over it, and the oil from your skin will make it drive easier without bending.

—DAVID BARNETT, CO

Unstick Stubborn Tape

Introduce a roll of masking tape for 15 seconds to soften the adhesive, allowing the tape to separate from the wall easily without tearing.

—GARY J. HODGSON, CO



Low-Tech Seed Finder

Use a cone magnet to locate seeds. This is a 2-inch-long wire mesh cone that traps seeds, such as seeds of weeds that come sometimes out as they grow, keeping the metal from getting lodged in the soil. May cause a uniform supply of seeds on the lawn. Using a thin stick, and if it finds the seeds, it's the seeds for you without the cone.

—HAROLD CLARK, SOUTHERN MD

Heavy-Duty Dust Filter

A 20-by-20-inch furnace filter taped to the back of a box fan helps keep dust down when remodeling. Just cut the fan in the window so it sucks air from the inside and blows it out.

—WILLIAMS, TEXAS

Corrections for June

The front and back showering tips were mistaken. It's made by New Holland.

On p. 33, the amount of water recommended to add to a garden hose is 100 gallons per hour and per minute.

Under Landscape, p. 41, it is located in Pennsylvania, not Lancaster. Its website is www.landscape.com.

How to reach us

THE EDITOR: This Old House Magazine, 200 West 10th Street, New York, NY 10011-3299. Or call 1-800-368-2866. Email: editor@thisoldhouse.com. Send us your letters, advice, and photo letters by mail. Letters are edited for clarity and length.

Your Questions Answered 24/7

Q: How can I tell the paint on my trim work is oil or latex?

chaperonnel

A: Rub the woodwork in an inconspicuous spot with denatured alcohol. It will dissolve the surface of latex but not touch an oil-based paint.

—Jesse Member

Q: How much topsoil needs to be removed to lay a gravel driveway?

ecolom

A: The right way to do it would be to remove all of the topsoil down to the sub-soil. If you don't, be prepared to have the driveway regraded every year.

—Dave157 Member

Q: Former owner painted over tile, and now the paint is peeling. How do I prep the tile to repaint it?

celibourg

A: For the same reason you 'need' to repaint, you shouldn't. Use a paintstripper to take it down to bare tile, or retile if you don't like what's there. Otherwise you're negating the benefits of tile in the first place.

—Coffin Member

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around the HOUSE

EDITED BY DEBORAH ENDORIAN

"WE FOUND OUR DREAM KITCHEN ON CRAIGSLIST"

KITCHEN & BATH SPECIAL You spend weeks painstakingly picking cabinets and researching countertops...or sometimes you just get lucky. Jack and Andrea Campbell of Quincy, Massachusetts, were remodeling their basement when they ran across an ad for a kitchen showroom that was relocating and selling off a complete floor model. "We were doubtful the model would fit into our space, but with a little niggling it worked" perfectly, says Andrea. They paid \$6,675 for base and upper cabinets, plus additional cabinetry, trim, side panels, and appliances, then adapted the setup for their galley-style kitchen. Turn the page to see how they did it.

MEET, 1070-18 all regions where Jeld-Wen now sells product in-Craigslis to April 2007. By Thanksgiving, the last Jack, a weekend warrior and chef, would much of the remodeler himself, were enjoying their new kitchen. **MEET, 1070-18** The couple with sons, Jack, 2, Matthew, 5, and Nathan, 9.



—DEAD-END CONCLUSION—

Don't wait for deals to come to you. Post a "wanted" ad on Craigslist or another classified site like Kijiji or Freecycle. You may just find that special customer who's willing to part with what you need.



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MYTHBUSTER

DO DRYER SHEETS DETER MICE?

MYTH: The latest is rife with testimonials extolling the odoriferous power of fabric softener sheets to keep mice out of the house.

REALITY: "Some scents repel mice for a short period of time, but mice are so smart and can sniff out scents," says Jeff Hammond, Orkin Pest Control's Atlanta, Ga., division manager. "Mice are extremely curious. Anticipation for food is keeping them busy when they're looking for food or a place to nest."

BOTTOM LINE: Don't expect your box of Bounce to work any pest-control miracles. But hauled traps won't solve a mouse problem as often. "Mice are attracted to spots where light comes through, so if you see a gap where they're entering, stuff it with steel wool or copper mesh so they can't gnaw their way through. Then caulk over it so no light can penetrate," Hammond says. Holes larger than an inch should be sealed with drywall or another suitable material instead.

—NATALIE RODRIGUEZ

Stop Tool Rust in Its Tracks

There's something every DIYer should know first to allow "discovery" to come in a tool, it will have something better and better," says Dr. David Rosenbaum, a vice president at MD-40. "Most clearly, the best defense is keeping the rust off your prized collection of tools and your tools in the best place. We tested dozens of new heavy products that will help keep your tools corrosion-free."

—DR. DAVID ROSENBAUM



STOP-ON CASETIDE
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critter patrol

Learn how to keep your home safe from invading critters at freshhouse.com/critterpatrol

HOMEOWNER TIP



KEEPING CAULK FRESH

"I used to hate how caulk dried out in the tip of the tube—I'd always have to recut the tip or trash the whole package. Now I use a screw-tip electrical wire connector to seal the tube. I haven't thrown away any dried-up caulk since!" —CHRISTOPHER LAMBERT, FLA.

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10 USES ALUMINUM FOIL

It's been capping casseroles and wrapping brownies for nearly 100 years. Check out these other clever uses for foil. —JENNIFER STAMPSON



1 Get rid of rust.

Chop up a piece of foil and use it to rub rust spots off of sauté pans and shower curtain rings.

2 Make a funnel.

Roll a section of foil into a cone shape, secure it with tape, and start pouring.



3 Fix a loose connection.

Roll a 6-foot-wide piece of foil several times and insert it between a battery and a battery spring to hold it in place and complete the circuit.



4 Give downy loose-leaf beds.

Place a sheet of foil over clothes and stick vinyl tile and press a hot iron over the foil until the adhesive backing melts and sticks to the clothes.

5 Sharpen scissors.

Fold a sheet of foil several times and cut through it with your scissor blades to sharpen the blades.

6 Radiate heat.

Wrap a piece of aluminum foil around a radiator to reflect heat back into the room.



7 Guard against drips.

Wrap door handles, knobs, and drawer pulls with foil for quick paint-job protection.



8 Decorate your grill.

Roll up a square of foil and use it to scrub off black bits.

9 Save your steel wheel.

Get your scrubber on a piece of foil to keep rust-free.

10 Make silver shine.

Line a glass pan with foil, add several spoonfuls of baking soda, fill the pan with lukewarm water, and place it in the dishwasher for a quick cleaning.

7

10

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A Homeowner Finds His Stolen House Parts at A Salvage Yard

Remembering an old house is hard enough. But imagine how you'd feel if all the work you'd done during the day was undone at night by some thief with a sledgehammer. That's what happened to New Orleans resident Mike Bordelon. Twice. The first theft occurred in June 2008, a month after Bordelon bought his 1960s shotgun house. Like many folks in the post-Katrina Gulf Coast region, Bordelon wasn't living in the house while he was working on it. Left unattended, the decorative trim along the windows and front door were ripped from the facade. The second case happened in August. "They stole my hand truck and used it to haul out my pocket doors," says Bordelon. The thieves also took the decorative cast iron that sealed off his fireplace.

Bordelon was a repeat victim in a rising wave of house-parts thefts across the country prompted by high demand for period-architectural details. Not surprisingly, the Self-Cove has been among the areas hardest hit by thieves ever since Katrina decimated the region three years ago. In Indiana, burglaries in the last proposal of a new law that would authorize impose a five-day waiting period for the making of replacement items. "We have windows, decking, into houses and its all being stolen," says Indiana State Representative Jon Gimp, who is pushing for the legislation. In addition, many salvage dealers around the country are requiring law to keep records of a seller's identification to deter the trafficking of stolen parts.

Bordelon was one of the lucky victims. After a bit of gumshoe snooping, he tracked down his gingerbread trim at the Eek Architects Antiques, a nearby salvage yard, where Mike, 54, said he'd been gladly turned over the items. But he never found the cast iron fireplace. Finally, at his pocket doors through he bought replacements for the latter through Emerald, meeting the seller in person to ensure he was the legitimate owner.

Today, with his home renovations nearly done, Bordelon is eager to install those rescued trim pieces on his front. But he's still got his money in—Indiana typically gives a 10 percent discount on items you're buying. —AMY HUGHES

HOW TO AVOID STOLEN SALVAGE

- Ask for the sales receipt. An invoice will give you extra proof you're getting the right stuff and the date of purchase.
- Opt for dealers who buy exclusively from their own sources rather than by dealers. In many cases, where the dealer is the source.
- Shop at places with a reputation for being and member shops. The owners are more likely to give you a discount than a dealer's price.

ABOVE: New Orleans homeowner Mike Bordelon found the trim pieces that were ripped from his house's facade at a salvage shop where a thief had passed them off as his own. **LEFT:** The stolen fireplace flanking was never recovered.



ABOVE: Sean Wilkerson, co-owner of The Barn Antiques and Artiques, surrounded many homeowners with their stolen house parts. "I've had people come here and get what they've lost," says Wilkerson. "It's a bit, I can't argue with that."

the self-portrait of a weekend warrior

COLOR NO. M5025
peach red
The shade that drives the shutters I can't believe I installed myself

COLOR NO. M5124
doveboard
The decorative molding I spent five minutes and a "sack" day painting

COLOR NO. M5312
daisy brand
The color that makes the guest bedrooms a serene retreat

COLOR NO. M5343
green fields
The wall where I mounted the pictures I found in my favorite antique shop

COLOR NO. M5317
cuddles and
The slinky red that refreshed my throwy dog



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NEED TO KNOW

BUTTON UP FOR FALL

Prepare your house now, before winter comes knocking

We all know the drill. You wake up on a Saturday with every intention of doing some pre-winter maintenance but either your break field plans are solid or you feel this late-morning run on your shoulders. Take a tip from the experts and avoid putting off 60 essential Saturday (or just any day) jobs you can do at a snap today—whether it's replacing old weatherstripping or adjusting the pitch of the gutters. You can always put your foot up later when it's time to take the babies.

—SAL, HILLSIDE

WEATHERPROOF WINDOWS AND DOORS

Realize your home is not airtight and seal it up. Check for leaks by holding a lit candle to the window and door frames. If you see a flame, you've found a leak. Use a weatherstripping seal to seal the gap. If you have a draft, use a weatherstripping seal to seal the gap. If you have a draft, use a weatherstripping seal to seal the gap.

ORDER YOUR OUTDOOR

When you're done with the house, it's time to order your outdoor furniture. Check for leaks by holding a lit candle to the window and door frames. If you see a flame, you've found a leak. Use a weatherstripping seal to seal the gap.

standing water to the foundation. Check for leaks by holding a lit candle to the window and door frames. If you see a flame, you've found a leak. Use a weatherstripping seal to seal the gap.

5 FIND AND FIX CRACKED CONCRETE

Cracks in your driveway, basement floor or sidewalk can be a big issue. If you find a crack, it's important to fix it. Use a concrete repair product to fill the crack. If you have a crack, use a concrete repair product to fill the crack.



6 CLEAN DRIVING SURFACES

If you have a car, it's important to clean the driving surfaces. Check for leaks by holding a lit candle to the window and door frames. If you see a flame, you've found a leak. Use a weatherstripping seal to seal the gap.

5 CHECK FOR HOLES IN THE ATIC

Don't let the cold air get in. Check for holes in the attic. If you find a hole, it's important to fix it. Use a weatherstripping seal to seal the gap. If you have a hole, use a weatherstripping seal to seal the gap.



6 CHECK YOUR INSULATION

How do you know if your attic is properly insulated? It's a simple test. If you have a hole, it's important to fix it. Use a weatherstripping seal to seal the gap. If you have a hole, use a weatherstripping seal to seal the gap.

PRO TIP

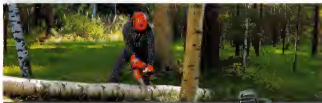
"If your radiators gurgle, they're not pitched properly. Tuck shims under the legs to move steam toward the pipe for a one-pipe system, or toward the steam trap for a two-pipe system."

—RICHARD TRIVETT, 1945 BAYVIEW FOUNDATION, KANSAS CITY, MO



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Appliance bridge flush with base cabinets, screen traffic flow around the island.

Refrigerator: Sub-Zero; Microwave: Sharp; Coffee Maker: Breville

The Plan

Preserve the footprint and add maximum functionality.

What They Did

- 1. INSTALLED FLOOR-TO-CEILING STORAGE** along the refrigerator wall with built-in appliances for a clean, uncluttered look. A 48-inch paneled refrigerator sits flush with the base cabinets, and a microwave and coffee station were installed in the upper cabinets. Two appliance garages keep the wall clean, making it easier to see what's in the cabinets. Lower cabinets hold a paneled warming drawer and a pullout cutting board.
- 2. ADDED UPPER CABINETS** on the stove wall and an open shelf with undercabinet puck lights and installed a cabinet above the wall ovens with built-in slots for baking sheets.
- 3. PUT IN TALLER CABINETS** along the sink wall for more storage and installed a corner basket with a "super Susan" for easy access to pots.
- 4. LENGTHENED THE ISLAND TOP**, giving it a rounded bowtie with space for bar stool seating at the end furthest from the cooking zone.
- 5. CREATED A BAKING CENTER** at the oven end of the island with a rolling pullout and flat surfaces to hold rising loaves, measuring cups, a sifter, flour sifter, and other dry goods.



BEFORE: While the room was a generous 12 by 12, the island was a generic 12 by 12. The island was cluttered with small appliances and storage items. The island was cluttered with small appliances and storage items. The island was cluttered with small appliances and storage items.

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



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—J. LEWIS ANDERSON, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

The Details

Updated materials, built-in appliances, and a jolt of rich color create a fresh look

3. **THE IRON POST BACK AND BRICK WALL.** The line leapers from the archipelago pre-aussanization are protected there splinters by ages up downcast wet bed beneath the casting

4. **PALE POLISHED-CALCAREOUS MARBLE** comes the courtyard, nestled and lower behind the rock windows for a close light reflecting near wet polished windows. After peak in the sink cabinet a stocky corner the back for hands from open space is equal for front access. Extending along the bottom in a wide rectangular space for minor shelf with lighting over the sink.

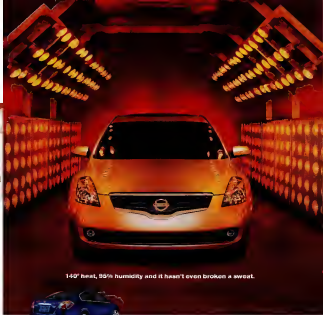
5. **FLUTED COLUMNS** add detail to the walnut, topological. Similar ones flanking the unit cabinets pullout for space and all storage on one side, lower longer on the other.

6. **A BUILT-IN SHELF UNIT** at the end of the refrigerator end holds cookbooks. It faces the passageway into the existing food pantry.

7. **DEEP GRANITE UNDER THE WINDOW SEAT** isolate stone and provide a counter. And are cabinets stacked with books for the lamp's light, reflecting mostly when it is not seen.



↑
Pushed under
the number-one
are drawers for
clothes and
shoes for pet
beds.



The Nissan Altima

Over 5,000 quality and durability tests for years of performance. The Nissan Altima puts excitement into everyday driving with so effort at all. To make sure that excitement lasts, we test it at extreme temperatures at subzero Fairbanks, AK, and a blistering high humidity oven at our test facility. Because any car worth driving is worth driving a long, long time. The Nissan Altima. Made to drive. Built to last. Visit us at NissanUSA.com



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From Bedroom to Bath

How a rowhouse gained space for a master bathroom, dressing area, and more

BY CAROLE BRADEN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KELLER & KELLER

KITCHEN & BATH SPECIAL

GENERALIST'S GOOD is a good reason to be black or white. But for Jill Becker and Drew Phillips, descending the steps is darkness was tough to avoid. The master bedroom in their 1813 rowhouse was the only room on the three-story home's second floor, thanks to a central apartment that had been carved out in the 1950s. That two-bedroom now made reaching their only bath, on the first floor, a literal nightmare. "To go to it," says Drew, "we had to navigate 15 steps, walk through the dining room, the kitchen, and a downtown hallway."

The couple, who had bought the Cambridge, Massachusetts, house with the intention of restoring its single-family configuration, longed for a master bath within shuffling distance of their bedroom. And while they wanted it to feel right for their 19th-century home, they also wanted 21st-century amenities like a steam shower and radiant heat. Local designer Charlie Allen suggested the radical cut to add a vintage look master bath and dressing area. As a bonus, the couple's daughter got room-logs as well. The design entailed a few compromises—having to move the bed to get from bedroom to bath, for one—but the couple has no complaints. Says Allen, "New they can roll out of bed and step right into the shower."



ABOVE: Space for the new master bedroom cut off a bathroom in a former central apartment. BEFORE: Inexpensive marble tile and white subway tile are among the finishes that help the new room look at home in the 20th-century house. Here, 3-year-old Jackson Planets from out the window. SIKKENS: SIKKENS.COM

Soft light, shower-fittings robe-hook system, medicine cabinet and tile (above).



The Plan

→ Gut the rental unit, move a wall, and create a spacious bath with a dressing area

What They Did

- 1 **ANNEXED A BEDROOM** from the former rental unit for the combined bath and dressing area.
- 2 **BUMPED ONE WALL** 15 inches into the adjacent bedroom to expand the new bathroom space, making room for an oversize shower inside a storage closet.
- 3 **DIVIDED THE SPACE** in two with a shower wall featuring a dressing area from the bath. The original bedroom door was a threshold, and doors were added at either end of the dressing area. The bath is accessed via a door in the entrance wall. This created an enfilade, but kept flow with the bath across the hall from the master bedroom and the dressing area serving as a passageway to both the bath and the child's room.
- 4 **SMALL WAS AHEAD** to allow multiple users at once. A 39-square-foot main room contains the shower and a sink; separately, pedestal sink was added to the 25-square-foot toilet room.
- 5 **LIKED NATURAL LIGHT** in the windowless bath with clerestory windows and frosted glass—paned doors.

Toilet, sink, shower, medicine cabinet and light. Above: window. Door hardware: Sunlight Hardware. Mirrors: Sunlight Hardware.



BEFORE: Any extra unit bathroom had to be added to the main bathroom and dressing area.

AFTER: One wall was moved 15 inches to create a slightly larger 730-square-foot space to be divided among the new rooms, and the old doorway was closed off from the dressing area, creating a passageway to the new bathroom and into the rest of the second floor.



HOMEOWNER TIP



"Double sinks don't have to match. Ours have different profiles—one curvy and feminine, the other more masculine—to help set the spaces apart."

—JILL BECKER, CARROLL, MASS.



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HOMESWAP TIP



"You can get a vintage look without a claw-foot tub. We felt a shower would be more useful—we needed a place to hose down our 90-pound dog!"

—DREW PHILLIPS, CHAMBERS, MASS.

Downward handheld shower and towel warmer. Custom built-in doghouse for doghouse.



The Details

>> 19th-century-appropriate materials disguise a space filled with modern amenities.

1. **FRAMING GLASS AND SQUARE HINGES** create a sleek shower enclosure. A men's legged pedestal sink with a cross-handled faucet and a wood-lined medicine cabinet give the room an old-fashioned yet clean feel. Reproduction sconces help brighten the windowless space.
2. **REINING BLACK DOOR** on the shower floor made with marble mosaic. The rest of the bathroom floor is covered with more contemporary 12 by 12-inch squares of Carrara marble.
3. **VINTAGE-STYLE FINISHES**, including beadboard paneling, white subway tile, and chrome hardware, lend an antique look to the newly built bath. A heated towel rack adds extra warmth as does the radiant heat under the floor.
4. **ARCHITECTURAL EXTRAS**, including built-in wardrobes and peaked pediment door and window casings, connect the new design to the home's Greek Revival roots. Linens stored in the wardrobes connected to the bath are accessible from inside the shower room as well. The walls, plank white oak floors are made from reclaimed barn wood.



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A white pedestal floor made from bone mosaic helps give the new dressing room a clean, modern feel.



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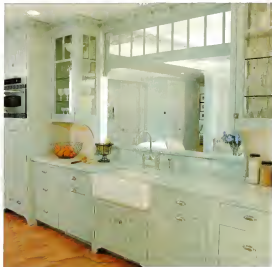
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SPECIAL REPORT

New Kitchen & Bath Products

» Here's the lowdown on the next, best things from the annual industry show: products developed with the simpler (easier!) life in mind.

KITCHEN & BATH SPECIAL

LAST MONTH we previewed our best buys for the year, from case of new kitchen and bath products. But don't see it? The Old House editors are as they promised the article. We found plenty more in store: that soapstone is made from recycled materials, like washing machines that automatically add detergent, even that warm up in seconds, and some wood surfaces that never need maintenance. Not to mention problem-solving solutions, like Enablis that keep stainless steel fingerprints and bacteria that hold up out of the way. Each when being awareness does come at a price. But remember, today's best through a tomorrow's standard. Here to read on for what's to come.



BAMBOO BASIN

A perfect choice for holding clothes that hang down, various styles of solid, sustainable, beautiful, impervious to water damage. \$500. bambobasins.com

Spa-Bath Accessories

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Polished, patterned and by hand. Give these Rubber 1 Stone accents. Spacious textures. Stable variations to color enhance their pair beauty. \$201 to \$300 per square foot. artisticusa.com

RELAXING SCENTS AND WASH TOWELS TOO

A great idea for your favorite essential oil is better to one of the best of the best. Scented towel. www.essentialoil.com

EDITOR'S PICK



AFFORDABLE STONE ACCENTS

"I love the look and feel of river-rock walls or floors in the bath, but they can cost a fortune. These cabinet knobs made from smooth beach pebbles are beautiful and budget-friendly." \$14 each; sea-stones.com



—COLLEEN WILSON, DESIGN EDITOR

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HOUSE 911



"No trees had fallen
on the house yet,
but we knew it was
just a matter of time."



"Which One Will Be Next to Topple?"

Dead and diseased trees are not only a hazard that could crash through your roof—they also steal water and light from the rest of your yard

BY ARIANNE GOUGH
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN CURIO

CREEDAH CREEDAH CREEDAH The sound of trees swaying in the wind can be pretty ominous, especially if they sometimes come crashing down within inches of your painstakingly renovated home.

THE CLIENT Sandy Herbert, a lawyer who lives in a Colonial Revival home built in the early 1900s on a heavily wooded acre in Englewood, New Jersey, with her husband, John.

THE CRISIS Trees ready to spread? After more than 30 years spent enjoying her three-story farm-upside, Herbert decided it was time to take on the menacing forest of dark woods she stared at from her kitchen window. "Every time there was a storm, we'd have trees down," says Herbert. "None had fallen on the house, but we knew it was just a matter of time." The last straw came when an enormous one headed right behind the house and made a huge dent in the lawn.

THE PROSPECTS The Herberts called Davey Wiggins, a horticulturalist and landscape contractor they'd hired once before. His diagnosis was swift: Dead Backyard Syndrome. "The yard



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Porch



Metal porcelain or enameled cast iron sinks are hard to find and have ornate legs. Sometimes apron fronts, second-hand, heavy-duty weight. This one is a 1900s sink at a recycling store. The Jersey has been legs and handles for the back.

Sinks Worth Saving

► They look great and work even better, but did you know a vintage kitchen sink can also improve your social life? Read on to learn how

BY AMY B. HUGHES
PHOTOGRAPH BY KENNETH CHEN

KITCHEN & BATH SPECIAL

LONG BEFORE THE UNDERMOUNT SPIRIT of today, the concept of a mid-century kitchen was a freestanding single- or double-bowled beauty propped up on shapely legs.

Perhaps because of classic dishwashers, or the sink's belated proportions, these leggy basins—and the built-in versions that came after them—were ripped out of most kitchens decades ago. I'd seen these mostly in salvage shops. There is, until a couple of years ago when my husband, Jon, and I pulled beside a propane one that'd been tucked in the curb. Upon spotting the really white sink in a row of black ones, I started dragging it toward the car.

"If we move the freestanding one, it'll fit in the back," I told Jon.

"Sure, but where will we put it once we get home?" he asked.

It was a logical question—and a real buzz kill. "We were living in a 435-square-foot apartment that already had a kitchen sink, a new one, so fast. And our closet-size storage unit was packed to the ceiling with so her secret access that I'd get to drive out for 50, today, Jon's pretty huge petting, and I left the sink on the sidewalk for some other lucky scavenger."

Since that day, though, I've been cooking up ways to put old sinks back to work, both inside and outside the house. Besides the kitchen, where a stylish basin could once again be a focal point, a vintage sink is perfect in the laundry area, for hand washables. Hooked up to a hose in the yard, it can't be less for growing garden veggies. But my favorite reuse is on the back deck, where a sink can double as a cooler bar. Follow along to see how a \$300 find from a salvage yard can turn a drab warm-weather retreat into party central.

This Old House isn't doing for Hyatt 100, 20 toward south and a piece to use a vintage metal sink as the centerpiece for an outdoor bar



Step-by-Step: Build This Bar

For months my neighbor Hilda Miller has been telling me to her boyfriend's (aka her) cottage. Sure, she enjoys my company. But she also wanted to build the outdoor bar that we'd discussed together way back in winter—dreaming of cocktails on the deck pulled out of our fire-rumy tank. The idea of this project is a 1950s cast-iron sink that I found at a salvage yard for \$300. It's supporting a \$275 oak or getting bench that we assembled in about an hour from skit. Shepherd and I did with her. The sink is great for chilling beers. Drain waste water into a hooked placed below the sink as if you hook the faucet to a garden hose. I'll be through PVC pipe. Inside the bottom change-over Hilda attached a colorful cloth made from four yards of Sunbrella fabric. But she'd bought for \$87.00.

Cost: About \$300
Time: 4 hours
Difficulty: Moderate
 If you're handy with a drill, sander and a power sander, you're golden.

ASSEMBLE THE BENCH KIT, leaving off the upper shelf. Next, cut a piece of scrap wood to the length of the bench top and secure it to the back edge with 1/2-inch stainless steel screws. Combined with wood braces that link the slats, the bench backlogs. The assembly will give the bench extra strength to hold the 50-pound sink.

PRO ADVICE:

Stains can mean the difference between a \$100 and a \$400 sink. So get the cheap one and clean it outside. Pour on a 50-50 mix of muriatic acid and water. Wait 10 seconds, then hit it with a garden hose. To be safe, wear gloves and eye protection.

—JOHN WHITE, SALVAGE DEALER
 GUNNERSVILLE, PA.

TIP: To avoid painting your fingers when setting the sink on the bench top, position a wood scrap at the front of the outlet. Slip out the scrap once the sink is in place.

2. MEASURE THE BASH on all four sides to calculate how large hole to make in the bench top to fit the sink.

3. TRACE THE OUTLINE of the basin on the bench top using a drawing square and a compass's pencil.

4. SLICE ALONG THE LINES with a jigsaw. To reinforce the sides of the opening, use 1-inch screws to secure two of the cut wood slats beneath the bench top, one perpendicular to its boards on the right and one on the left.

5. LIFT THE SINK and carefully ease the basin into the cutout in the bench top.

6. SEAL AROUND THE SINK with clear silicone caulk. For a crisp line, lay painter's tape along the gap between the sink lip and the wood top.

7. ATTACH THE UPPER SHELF using dry-dry 1/2-inch screws into the bench's pre-drilled holes.

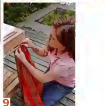
8. TWIST EMBROIDS into the underside of the bench frame at the corners and in the center. Pencil holes first to keep the wood from splitting.

9. CUT THREE DOWELS to the length of the bench top sides and bore to serve as curtain rods. Slip the dowels through the eyelets, and attach the fabric curtain. Then crank open the handle, start mixing and hand a job well done.

ONLINE VIDEO
 Watch the complete step-by-step for this project at www.houzz.com.
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1. ASSEMBLE THE BENCH KIT, leaving off the upper shelf.



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©2010 Living Proof LLC/Dr. Scholl's, Inc. *Lower back pain from being on feet all day; knee pain due to overpronation.



TOOLBOX

On a Roll

» Choose the right masking tape to help perfect your paint lines

BY JENNIFER STIMPSON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
MAUR WELLS

LIKE BRUSHES, rollers, and dropcloths, tape is an essential on any paint job. Even if your hand is steady as a surgeon's, using tape to mask off walls, trim, floors, and windows protects them from aerosol dyes and brushstrokes, just before you reach for that basic beige or blue roll. Keep in mind that you can't get a mask-
ing tape by accident. You need to study the fine print. There are tapes so sticky they hold fast to stains and ones that are hard to wallpaper. Some hang tough when exposed to solvents, while others can stay for days without leaving behind a gummy residue. If you're attaching bits of tape into the corners of windows, there are even tear, grease tape triangles. And while no tape is 100 percent bleed-proof, you can impress the adults by picking the best one for your job. Here's how.

TOILET



FOR MOST PURPOSES Frog Tape has a special ingredient that turns paint into a gel before it can bleed under moisture, so you get superior lines. The medium strength adhesive won't leave weird finishes, but avoid pulling it on wallpaper. Use it outdoors for up to 14 days and indoors for 21. It lasts one year after the 50th birthday. frog.com

PRO ADVICE



"To get the cleanest edge, pull off the masking tape while the paint is still tacky."

—NORM KORMAN, TV-TOOLHOUSE
MAKER OF CARPENTRY



FOR DELICATE SURFACES

Scotch Blue Delicate Tape (02940) has low-to-medium adhesive so it won't damage drywall, paper, finished wood, glass, or polished wallpaper—although it can harm decorative paper or foil wall coverings and other vulnerable surfaces. Pull it up clean for up to 60 days. \$5. 3m.com

pro painting tip

Less mess about getting a bubble brush.

bluehairs.com

FOR OUTDOORS When you need to protect carpet, sheet flooring, or unfinished wood and masonry, paint, emulsion for high adhesion Scotch General Purpose (02000) goes down light and pulls away cleanly up to three days later. Caution: Strong latex is acidic if allowed to bake in the sun, and it's not recommended on finished wood floors, wall coverings, or painted metal. \$200. 3m.com



FOR TIGHT CORNERS Scotch Blue Painter's Tape for Corners and Hinges (020010CM) comes in heavily scored, no-stain adhesive shapes that you peel off and stick to window panes, hinge boxes, and other tight spots. They seal a 1/8" joint that has cured at least 30 days, and they'll pull up clean—and survive in the sun—for up to 14 days. \$5. 3m.com



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TOOLBOX



FOR STICKS:
The paper backing on Paper Edge Graft Tape (PEGT-10) is a surface that you can position it just right and then cut it in place to follow a line. Its low-strength adhesive won't pull up wallpaper or cured paint. Safe to leave in place for 60 days, between or not. \$10.95, shurtape.com

TOOL SCHOOL:
Horse Kwik Seal 3.0 shows the best ways to apply and remove later. *Working* p. 55

FOR FINGERPRINTS: Medium-adhesion Palmetto's Matte Green tape is useful when removing for smudges like printer's ink, grease, or lacquer. It won't damage paint that's over a month old and it peels off cleanly after eight days. When after being left in full sun. \$4, imgomaps.com

PRO ADVICE



"Masking tape is not a permission slip for sloppy brushwork. The less paint you get on a tape, the easier it is to remove without making a mess." —NORMA KOTZKE



PRO OUTDOORS:
High-adhesion Scotch Heavy Duty Poly Shave tape (43M10) also sticks to metal and vinyl. It has an adhesive of polyester backing, so it holds its grip in the sun for up to a month. \$5, 3m.com

FOR BRICKS: ScotchGrip-to-Sticks (43000) adheres to rough hard-to-stick-to surfaces like brick, concrete, and rough wood. But it'll leave behind adhesive residue if used outdoors or if left in place for more than three days. Unlike most tapes, it peels cleanly off textured surfaces. Here's some use for use as well: seal coverings, or brick and mortar. \$3, 3m.com



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The Townsend Collector in Honey Oak



The Del Ray Collector in Maple Space



The Del Ray Collector in White



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The Townsend Collector in Honey Oak features square forged iron-style hardware, stained multi-ribbed wall cabinets, and ground paneling.

✦ For a Transitional Look

The Del Ray Collector in Maple Space offers simple, clean style with increased depth, distinctive mullions, bold lines and steel box pulls in satin nickel finish.

✦ For a Contemporary Look

The Del Ray Collector in White has open frame doors with no center glass inserts, single crown molding and stainless steel pulls.

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STEP-BY-STEP
WEEKEND
PROJECT SERIES

Installing a Butcher-Block Countertop

BY JENNIFER STEPHEN PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB LANGRISH

**KITCHEN
& BATH
SPECIAL**

GLASS GRANITE and other
stones. It looks all home
and modern—and maybe
just a little bit, you know,
old. So what to do if you want more warmth
in the heart of the house? Cozy things up with
rich-looking butcher block. Not only are its
well-illuminated workspaces, it's easy to install,
as *The CW House* owner, technical editor
Mark Powers (p. 100), tells us in the following pages.
Just order it to suit your kitchen's design.
In hours you'll have a warm and well-used
top.



*White Edge Granite from
The Greenhouse Lumber
Company. \$15 per square
foot, greenhouse.com.*

**Gets \$14 to \$24 per square foot
not including delivery costs.**

Time: 4 hours for two days

**Skills: Easy to follow
but some carpentry experience**

Tools:

Circular saw

Utility knife

Compass or square

Hand plane

Hammer

Materials:

Butcher block, 1/2 inch

2x4 and 1/2 inch

glue

Glue gun

FOR COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS,
TURN THE PAGE AND ENJOY



A renovation can only be as good
as the energy you put into it.

You already know the benefits of cooking with propane—shut off heat and precise temperature control. But did you know that once you've upgraded to propane in your kitchen, you've laid the groundwork to expand it throughout your home? From endless water heaters, dryers and furnaces to fireplaces, grills and outdoor lights, propane delivers performance, comfort and efficiency inside and out. Plus, in many uses, propane gives off less than half the greenhouse gas emissions of electricity. To learn more about remodeling with clean-burning propane, visit uspropane.com.



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STEP-BY-STEP WEEKEND PROJECT SERIES



overview

Butcher block is merely slices of wood glued together into thick, thick slabs—a particularly sturdy and stable work surface in a kitchen. However, if you plan to put food on your butcher block, make sure to choose a product that has a nontoxic finish.

Installing a butcher block starts with ordering one to fit your space. Many manufacturers will measure and install a butcher block for you, but you can save on labor by making your own template out of a scrunched material, such as cardboard, and sending it to the factory. The manufacturer will then ship the butcher block directly to you for installation.

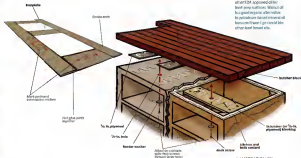
If there are any bumps or skives in the walls against the counters, you will need to scribe the template to fit them. Be sure to include any overhang you want the butcher block to have—as little as 1/4 inch for a standard countertop or up to a foot for a seating counter—and keep it consistent and parallel to the front of the cabinets as you scribe. Then, before sending off the template, mark it up with information that's helpful to the manufacturer, including orientation, measurements, and decorative edge profile.

With proper installation, butcher block lasts many years. First, it needs a sturdy surface on which to rest. On most cabinets, which have no tops, that means installing blocking to provide support. On solid-topped cabinets, you can just add thin furring strips to raise the top enough for air to circulate underneath.

In either scenario, you should affix the butcher block to the cabinets using a flexible kitchen and bath sealant. But you must also screw it down securely while still accounting for the natural expansion and contraction of the wood. The best way to do that is to make an enlarged hole around the screws where it passes through the cabinet. That way, as humidity and temperature change, the top can shift slightly in any direction without getting ruined by cracks or splits.

keep it nice

Let's face it: you're going to use your butcher block a lot. So make sure you're using the right materials and techniques to keep it looking good for years to come.



shopping list

1 BUTCHER BLOCK

Must be certified nontoxic, plan to order for delivery.

2 CARDBOARD

Use a long, thin piece of cardboard to make a template for the butcher block. Avoid using too much cardboard, as it will be too heavy to handle.

3 PAINTER'S TAPE

Use to secure the template to the wall.

4 SCRAP WOOD

Use to make a template for the butcher block.

5 KITCHEN AND BATH SEALANT

Use to secure the butcher block to the cabinets.

6 1/2-INCH FENDER WASHERS

Use to secure the butcher block to the cabinets.

7 1/2-INCH DECK SCREWS

Use to secure the butcher block to the cabinets.

8 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

9 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

10 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

11 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

12 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

13 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

14 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

15 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

16 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

17 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

18 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

19 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

20 MINERAL OIL

Use to finish the butcher block.

step by step

Make a cardboard template

Measure the depth of the cabinets. Add 1/4 inch to the amount of overhang you want on your counter.

Using a utility knife, cut two strips of cardboard about 3 inches wide and as long as your total countertop depth. Make sure the two short ends of the strips are straight and parallel to each other (P9C7).

Adjust a combination square to the depth of the counter overhang. Use it to adjust the strip of cardboard so it overhangs the cabinets by the correct amount while pushed against the base wall (P9C7).

Don't worry if the strip isn't square to the side wall. It's most important that it's parallel to the cabinet front. Tape the strip in place.



2 Scribe the template

Open a compass so it just matches the widest gap between the cardboard strip and the side wall. Run the tip of the compass along the wall, scribing pencil marks on the cardboard. To scribe the contours of the wall to the strip (P9C7), using a utility knife, cut the cardboard along the scribe line.

Push the strip back until it's against the wall, using the combination square to verify the overhang depth. Remove the strip a place. Make a second strip in the same manner for the opposite side of the counter.

Cut a longer strip of cardboard to match the back wall and scribe it if necessary. Tape it in place between the two sides. Again, another long piece with perfectly straight edges to act as the front of the template. Double-check that the countertop overhangs aligns correctly between the edge and in place and the cabinet fronts as you tape it down.

TIP > For larger concrete slabs with slots or notches, tape down strips to outline where the rough openings for the necessary cutouts should go.

3 Assemble the template

Tear more strips of cardboard along any seams between cabinets to show where they fit. Mark which face is the top of the template and indicate front, back, and sides. Also note on the template which edges should be shaped in a profile and which will be straight cuts.

Once all the pieces are taped in place, mark all the joints between strips with reference lines that run across the width of the adjoining pieces. Using a fast glue gun, carefully secure each joint section, making sure to follow the reference marks (P9C11).

When the glue is dry, outline the template, then carefully fold it up and send it to the manufacturer with your butcher block order.

Mark cabinets on the width and length of any slots or rough notches, and send a clear photograph of the template. Also send along manufacturer's product spec sheets (available online).



ILLUSTRATION BY GREGORY NEMEC

4



4 Prepare the cabinets

If you're working on a open-topped cabinet, you'll need to install blocking so there's something to screw the butcher block to. Using a hand saw, cut plywood or 2x4 strips to fit tightly within the width of the cabinet. Using a drill/driver fitted with a 1/4-inch bit, drill angled pilot holes, about 1/2 inch away from the edges, that go through the top of the blocking and out the end ends. If it the blocking extends at the front of the cabinet, secure it to the cabinet with 2 1/2-inch deck screws through the pilot holes (LEFT).

If your cabinets have solid tops, you need to go in-between framing strips. Using a hand saw, cut strips of 1/4-inch plywood to 2 inches shorter than the depth of the cabinets. Lay these strips every 16 inches across the cabinet tops, sticking each down with a board of kitchen and bath cement.

TIP > To make an angled pilot hole in the blocking, first drill it 90° in shorter hole straight down, then pull the bit out and reposition it at an angle to the hole.

5



Attach the butcher block

Using a drill/driver fitted with a 1/4-inch paddle bit, drill through the center of the blocking or through the solid cabinet top at each framing strip. Create one hole for this on each cabinet.

On an open-topped cabinet, lay a board of kitchen-and-bath cement along the edges of the cabinet and on the blocking. On solid-topped cabinet, lay a board of kitchen-and-bath cement on each framing strip. Set the counter in place (RIGHT).

From inside the cabinet, drive deck screws fitted with a longer washer up through each hole, into the butcher block (LEFT). (Make sure the screws is shorter than the counter block.) Tighten the screws until they push the block snug to the cabinet.

< TIP

When making the holes in the cabinets, keep the bit from straddling the seam around the hole by clamping a long block of wood against the cabinet top.

6



6 Oil the surface

Using a lint-free rag, liberally apply mineral oil to the top of the butcher block (LEFT). Allow the oil to soak into the wood for a few minutes, then wipe off the excess. Oil the block once a month.

TIP > If oil buildup occurs, use a putty knife to lightly scrape away the excess, and reapply a thin coat.

{ buying guide }

Butcher block can be made out of nearly any wood—or any combination of woods—configured with its grain showing on the flat, on the edge, or on the end. Here are some of our favorites, looks and colors for a kitchen accent.

HASPLE

With its handsome, end-of-grain, maple makes an excellent butcher block material. Flat grain, maple, 110 inches thick, \$239 from Devco Custom Woodworking, devcocustomwood.com >

CHERRY

Popular for its rich red color, cherry butcher block is strongest with the end grain facing up. Four-inch cherry and pine, \$152 from Jax Wood, jaxwood.com >



BALDWIN

A sustainable wood source, cedar block was selected as a butcher block when awarded with the end grain showing. This hardwood has been obtained to deliver the more naturally without a finish. Customized block, \$279 from The Grothouse Lumber Co., gthouse.com >

ZEPHYRWOOD

This unique local wood has a characteristic of dark grain with golden highlights. Zephyrwood flat grain, 210 inches thick, \$122 from The Grothouse Lumber Co., gthouse.com >



MIXED WOODS

Grains coming together enhanced and merge—set together in blocks of end grain—will pop. The combination also holds knots well and has superior stability for longevity. Mixed end grain, 210 inches thick, \$122 from The Grothouse Lumber Co., gthouse.com >

WEDGE

The rich color of wedge, another pine, African wood, with knots and marks, and it won't warp even when used on the flat. Wedge flat grain, 210 inches thick, \$115 from JAX Wood, jaxwood.com >

Wedges joined on any square foot

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE
RECOMMEND

Classic look, modern luxury: Polished-wood cabinets, marble-top surfaces, island beams, and a stone sink have been the backbone of a traditional working-kitchen for centuries. Butters, steel appliances, decorative glasswork, a handsome polished ceiling, and no-daub light fixtures help elevate the nice old-fashioned space to a finer one.



KITCHEN
& BATH
SPECIAL

GET
THE LOOK

PICK THE
PRICE

How to afford the kitchen you want?
With a mix of high- and lower-ticket
products and materials

HERE'S A SAVVY APPROACH TO KITCHEN REMODELING: Take your cue from a classic cooking space with timeless good looks—like the one above, fully custom one-drawers here complete with glossy white cabinets, gleaming varieties of marble and mosaic, a sleek stainless-steel centerpiece, many corners are carefully tailored to a Savvy Kitchens. Then order it up, like so:

Want to copy the place down to the last, pricey detail? Go for it. Not in the market for major extravagance? Then maybe just start that combination of light-reflecting woodwork and Curves-style counters. Maybe give glass doors a pass if your dishwasher can't take the pressure. You may want to spring for the bar-kitchen quality (even if you're on your former house just talent with you if you decide to sell). Or skip the diva range for one that offers a little less drama and a little more value.

An astute homeowner knows the smart money is on learning to mix high-end products and materials with those on the lower end—while keeping a keen eye on quality, of course. You've probably been doing that for years yourself (which helps explain how you ended up with a \$20 toaster and a \$200 pans grill). Now's a good time to apply that same approach to finishing up your kitchen. Start with some of the inspiring links on these pages.

By Kelly Brown
Kitchen photography by Jeff Kunkin
Still sets by Ted Brown
Production by Cathie Scanlon
Kitchen styling by Amy Griffin



\$\$\$ - LUXE



\$\$ - MODERATE



\$ - BUDGET

1 Range

Pro-style looks and big BTU heating are widely available. Fuel type, capacity and features will determine the cost.



Dual fuel classic: With a 12-inch "dual-burn" range has six gas burners (one with dual simmer/boil settings) and a griddle plus two electric wires for roasting—plus a double oven with a 4.5-cubic-foot lower and a 2.5-cubic-foot side main. www.walpolekitchen.com for location. **EP-500**—walpole.com



Gas, only upside: If you can live without an electric vented adjustable foot, learn Air's 40-inch Pro-Style gas range has the same features (with, almost the same oven capacities, \$4,399). Online calling (www.hanover.com)



Soiled clothes dual-fuel four-burner grill are sure enough! Then consider Germany's 30-inch dual-fuel Pro range. It's got the three-burner pot, plus a storage lock for the controls in [kitchenaid.com](http://www.kitchenaid.com).

2 Hardwood Flooring

Rich, dark hardwood and the stained oak in this kitchen—affirms hardwood contrast in a mostly white kitchen. And with all the choices on hand, getting the look doesn't have to be your most arduous. The price differential between prefinished solid-core (\$45 to \$65), unstained and engineered wood (\$34 to \$61), unstained or stained (60¢ per square foot). The latter requires less install time—and time is money, if you're hiring out—and it also means DFP-friendly. But the choices won't be without at least recalling down the line. Cheaper laminate (\$34 to \$85, stained) and vinyl (\$30 to \$57, installed) can provide the right color contrast and, in some cases, a decent hand-scrub stand-in for the look of dark, stained wood. If that's the feel

3_Backsplash

The elegant, diamond-shaped marble mosaic tiles on this lantern's base (shown) are definitely out of the ordinary. But there are more affordable options, too. Like most mosaics, the three tile samples shown here come attached to a mesh backing to ease installation.



Multicolored marble
diamonds—These pointers
are made from Walker Diamonds
are based right from Colorado
marble. The stone's natural
color variations give the idea
eye-catching depth and
interest. \$48 per square foot
(shown installed)
walkerdiamond.com

\$\$ White marble diamonds: Pure white Opotite marble mosaics from Germany have a little less sheer marble veining but deliver a light, bright, natural stone look for still less. **\$35** per square foot. carrara.com



Improve with corner squares: By giving precise L-shape white ceramic corner squares a turn to create almost evenly diamond shapes (find them for as little as \$1 per square foot) using the styrofoam. These half-inch thick squares from Artistic Tile are made and glazed by hand. \$17 per square foot; artistictile.com

4_Prep Sink

The outdoor built-in deck is illustrated here shown throughout the story took three days to make from individual slabs of Corian marble glued together, for a four-figure price tag. You can order something like it without having to wait for a fabricator. Add a custom cutting board for an top from a woodworker (Corian can be black, too) and you've got a range of fancy maple and walnut ones.



Copy it or Condemn It: The new 16-inch square, crisp-cornered tile might be mistaken for an old stone slab—a white one. But its satin surface material never reveals leading scratches as he is walked out and it means 1 step around the house. \$120/sq. yd., www.rockwelltile.com.



Portable apparatus can
fit in 22-lb case. 25-inch square
panels underneath table may not
yarn, solid state, it's got some
1.5-lb. studio from a hard-wearing,
combining composite of crushed
glass and aluminum requires no
welding. 1-800-233-2222.



Buying Tips In this story we've mostly dealt with online retailers, but you can also find great deals on books at brick-and-mortar stores. If you're looking for a bargain, visit a used bookstore or a used record store. These places often have a large selection of books and records at a fraction of the original price. If you're looking for a new book or record, visit a new bookstore or record store. These places often have a large selection of books and records at a fraction of the original price.

5_Sink

One 30- to 32-inch wide basin trumps the double-bowl design. But one stainless-steel with non-slip-rubber pads on the underside and 36-to-40 gauge stainless steel flower gauges is thicker and better than the rest.



\$\$\$

Deep and heavy duty: Made of 36-gauge 30-gauge stainless steel, this Pacific sink is 24 inches deep for full sink depth. It also has the biggest sound-dampening pads of the bunch. You can, too, customize the drain placement when you order. \$1,425 freddie.com



\$\$

Shallower, thinner, but still solid: Made of 30-gauge stainless steel and an even-on-the-back working depth of 20 inches may be enough for you. Clay's version has a good spray-on plastic coating reducing rust and bacteria. But that helps it stand up to acids. \$225 clayco.com



\$

Smaller specs, solid value: A little steeper price point is justified, a little steeper when you think of stainless steel's longevity. Starting a model still has the low price, 36-gauge stainless steel and good insulation as well as a comfortable 9-inch depth. \$442, awingplumbing.com



6_Coffered Ceiling

For this ceiling, carpenters bored out a grid with 20- by 20-inch covers the recesses with drywall, then added quick curve molding. For a coffered look that comes from applied moldings, companies like Midwestern Wood Products (woodgrain) will only 10-cubic-foot wood molding system (a lot of runners and cross ties) that let carpenters 10- by 10-foot ceiling for one. \$1.25 per square foot, you could pay \$1,250 for a 10- by 10-foot ceiling like this one.

7_Faucet

Focus on weighty brass castings, a durable finish, and high performance valves for the best overall investment. Of course, you gotta love the way it looks, too.



\$\$

Traditional finish, ceramic disc: This faucet from Kohler costs less because it comes in a more conventional chrome-plated finish. But it's important to find under the shining 10-point cross handles are valves with long-wearing ceramic discs. Comes with a limited guarantee. \$229 (paid spray included) kohler.com



\$\$\$

Precision metal and compression valves: More than half the cost of Kohler's is a single-handle ceramic-handle faucet comes from its exotic custom coating of high-purity alloy. The brass-plated, chrome-plated finish is guaranteed for life, the solid top of the line. Traditional compression cartridges, for up to five years. \$299 (paid spray included) danielson.com



\$

Less brass, steel valves: The brass spout got a chrome-plated metal finish. The single lever handles are plated zinc. Stainless steel discs in the valves make this Delta set—guaranteed for life—an excellent value. \$255 (paid spray included) delta.com

8_Countertop

The average kitchen has roughly 25 linear feet of counter surface. That much available in a progress marketplace. Fortunately, look like synthetic materials can deliver a similar look for less.



\$

Hidden friendly business: Wilson's is a small business with a big reputation. Find a countertop for every kind of kitchen. Independent contractors find that it works better and faster than other suppliers. Be sure to hire a good installer to minimize seams. \$20 to \$25 per square foot, installed wilson.com

\$\$\$

Gray-washed Carrara marble: For many the wonderful character this stone brings is worth while extra work. Granite sealing with best grade material is a lot more costly. Using marble, the marble is a lot cheaper to maintain. About \$75 to \$100 per square foot, installed granite.com

\$\$

Seamless solid surface: This Corian solid surface is a little different from a help good job of looking Corian, though with a more uniform look. While seamless and solid surface is a common look, it's not always the best. A solid surface is a lot more expensive. Another plus is no seams. About \$60 to \$75, installed depend.com

9 Chandelier

Where material is the same (steel) and finish nearly so (satin or brushed nickel), as in the three fixtures below, it's mostly design and dimensions that you're paying for.



Stark, solid, and subtle - A new 24-hour store by the discontinued Nature of right, this solid ridge. Two new models from Nature of Light is 23 inches in diameter. It also has a solid, subtle and a spot upgrade from the chain link look. <http://www.natureoflight.com>



Less than a day away from light: The traditional brushed nickel fixture from Thomas Lighting is 28 1/2 inches in diameter. Its six curved arms are most detailed, but others are more easily cleaned. [ThomasLighting.com](http://www.ThomasLighting.com)



Compact, simplified design:
Glass tables meet plastic tubular steel
arms finished in brushed nickel on the
daylight/kahle chandelier WAT's 22
lamp series. \$125. www.daylight.com

continued
beyond

Thinking about a small town like the Midwest
journal about history and culture and all
the different people who live there.



10 Wood Countertop

When perimeter counter tops are light in color, making in a rich, wood surface makes for a dramatic accent—and can help delineate a serving or dining spot. But the butcher block finish isn't just in the kitchen we show is costly. Tops at about \$100 per square foot. A more affordable solid or maple finish about half the price can provide a similar look, though it's not as durable. Topped with a water-based finish, it's resistant to water, food, grease, and stains. (See "Countertops: Solid Surface, Granite, and More," p. 100.)

11 Cabinets

The cost of cabinets usually comes from whether you choose custom (order up any size you want), semicustom (chosen from a wide array of pre-determined sizes), or stock inventory (only on set dimensions and use filler strips in between as needed). The doors have differences, too. Prices based are for complete cabinets in the stock sizes.

Custom polished maple
Quality Custom Cabinet's door is half inch thick, made with moisture-resistant plywood, kiln-dried hardwoods, and is built with sharp dovetail joints. It comes in a made-to-order 60" x 48" x 1 1/2" configuration. About \$350 (see lower left) are the

Screening-impregnated (single)-boardform is solid maple door in a single, recessed panel with a lustrous, ornamental finish. It comes in a box of 5, half plywood. \$2000 to \$2800 per linear foot. leafwood.com



\$
Snack with Thermo-Foil-A **without**
MSF Thermo and molten-metal make
up this less-expensive clear-line
American Weldwelds Thermofoil
covering a molded PVC plastic in heat-
sealing and easy-to-clean-but can be
substituted with coatings. The line has
15-16mm particle-diameter sizes and a 15-
inch MSF pack. 522 per-line heat-
seal MSF. www.americanweldweld.com

12 Knobs

Fleety brass "bodies." Chrome plating. Nearly identical designs. Much of the difference between these vintage-style cabinet knobs comes down to how they're made.



Clean-cut ceilings: Watermark's Ball-based design gets its unique detail in part from the six or seven cleanings it receives after being used. Then mother nature's help is enlisted by birds to distribute seeds in clumps and make the complex birds, then drive off the birds each for a top-quality finish. 333 watermarkdesign.com

Another look, like: Baldwin's dented look is more than a camouflage, a less expensive process that produces softer lines. It is then polished by hand and chrome-plated. \$40. baldwinthevan.com

Full Figured and Curved: A larger-but-similar style by Onika starts with a loose blist that's defined by a belt before it tapers-plated—a promise that approximates the look of a corseted torso. \$15. Northernbliss.com



"of course, we think We Can Do Everything, Ourselves"

How one family learned through trial and error—popping off baseboards while using floor jacks and sawing a hutch in half to get it in the front door—to turn a 1909 wreck into their dream home

By Kim Hensons, Homeowner
Photographs by Josh Gehring Styling by Emily Higgins



LEFT: The owner put a half year of remodeling every room—and selling a couple businesses—into the project before the Hensons bought the 1909 home in South Carolina. **RIGHT:** When the Hensons bought the house, no remodeling was done at all, including peeling paint, broken windows, and rotting floors. **ABOVE:** Kim and John Hensons and their dog, a mix of a pit bull and a golden retriever, in the new house.



"Slumped on the faded pink floral sofa, across from the pink velvet chairs, Kelly, our 16-year-old daughter, listened to the sales pitch.

Our real estate agent finished by saying, "And the owner is selling you all the curtains." Kelly looked at the heavy green mesh draperies, then at me, and said, "You're not going to make it live here, are you?"

It was the last important course of the 96-year-old house, and apparently the last course. Our son, Rusty, then 17, was less dramatic but no happier about the place, especially the "gross" downstairs bath, its floor spongy with rot.

It, however, was thrilling. The 1903 Craftsman sat on a corner lot, near restaurants and shops in the historic downtown district of Conway, South Carolina, just blocks from the beach house where we lived. It had a wrap-around porch and leaded-glass windows and was surrounded by cypress-dredged oaks. But more than anything, it looked like a home my grandmother had lived in. For five years it had yielded by a half inch to the sea, and it had a big claw-foot bathtub and the same wood paneling inside.

With all the potential I saw, I accurately noticed the oil cans and rust stains around the bathtub, the dilapidated paint chipped in the back, and the peeling paint. From the moment the for-sale sign went up, I was ready to buy the place. I just had to convince my husband, John.

Although we were both confirmed renovators, our first look inside didn't help my case. The wallpaper was falling off; we counted nine broken windows. The downstairs bath did have a claw-foot tub, though its enamel was chipped—and it was missing one claw.

Upstairs, all the doorbells were gone and the master

LIFT The husband fixed the kitchen with wet-boarded floors, framed the more sophisticated cupboards from a local shop, installed a gas appliance, and added a better sink and counter. **DIORITE** The dilapidated stairs—a supposed prize right at first—had rot and no handrails, and a rope had to be strung down. Set also into upstairs, a stone mantelpiece in the kitchen's island was put in a corner.

bedroom carpet had a corner, cross-shaped burn. We got looking behind mirrors and curtains in questionable places because, after all, they had holes, not, or bled, or bled, or bled.

The real estate agent left us in the driveway, after telling us there was another important aspect. As the drive off, John said, "Do you see this place? There's one other aspect."

But I loved it.

Then there was the fact that the house bore the number 1300, and we could get it for \$135,000. That was, of course, a car lucky number.

We had learned a lot while working on our ranch house, and we liked the look of this project. Figuring we could finance ourselves, we set a few years. Before we knew it, we had sold our old place and moved into a "new" house—on our lucky day, July 13, 2000.

Twenty-four hours later, however, a car good fortune seemed to be wearing off. The day after closing found John mowing the driveway at the bottom of the stairs, frustrated because he couldn't get our queen-size box spring through. After a half hour of banging it still didn't budge, so we just set up the top mattress on the bedroom floor.

We also realized we had failed to notice some of the house's flaws during our previous walk-through. In the living room, we missed an annoying indentation in the plywood-covered base where a radiator had been. And when I started the water full of filthy work clothes, I found I did not get hot water. Still, I convinced sales. It wasn't until we returned home from a night out, slipped on the lights, and saw matches crawling on the walls and on the box spring, all grappled up in the living room that I dashed me out.

I called an exterminator the next morning. And John took our upstairs bedroom window out of its frame and had friends help him lift the box spring onto the front porch overhang and through the opening. So at least we had a proper place to sleep.

Next, we had to deal with a 10-foot-long salvaged display cabinet that sat out on the porch, one it wouldn't fit through any door. We had bought it before closing on the house, purchased by single doors and around history. So John cut it in half lengthwise, dragged the pieces inside, and reassembled them in the dining room as a buffet.

When we finally named our street as the "gross" downtown bath, which connected Kelly and Rusty's rooms, we found yet another surprise. Underneath the stone layer of flooring—some of it "levelled" with old asphalt



online
house

Learn how to
sell your house
online with the
help of a real estate
agent. Visit
Zillow.com



What We Did:

Renovated 1950's farmhouse in the historic district of Conway, South Carolina

Renovating costs: About \$200,000

Time frame: 18 months to a full year

When we came off a 90 percent of the work ourselves and salvaging items like the jasper granite table that came via kitchen table

When we splurged: On kitchenaid stainless steel appliances. We could have spent less, but I was excited about our first "high end" kitchen

When we could do it ourselves: Design a large screened porch around the front lot. It's a great idea, but it's a lot of work. We also did the front porch, but only because we had the right tools for dividing the back lot into two and good help.

How we saved: We measured and measured to their exact and measured. We measured and measured again. We measured and measured again.

ADVICE: Having a plan and a timeline is key. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline.

• Following a plan and timeline



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



ADVICE: The first step is to get a plan. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline.

roof trusses—were saved joints that John needed to replace. He ended up having to use the whole house using a 30-ton hydraulic jack he borrowed from his dad, who owns a machine shop, before the crew brought the floor. One time, some of the house's footings had settled deeper into the ground, leaving badly sloped and sagging floors.

Jack up the house and then level it out, until we heard the house settle on Kelly's bedroom, pulling away from the walls. Take out any time you can to have as little as three-quarters of an inch per foot leveling with a week to allow the structure to adjust. We slowed down, using a just that much as we leveled over three weeks.

By the time winter rolled around, I had gone through 12 tubes of caulk, 1 bag of foam fill, and 4 tons of spray foam insulation trying to eliminate drafts and cut our heating bill. John worked for weeks replacing broken pipes and mounting storm windows so we could finally work without wearing pajamas.

When spring came, we tore off the rotting back deck to add a new one with skylights and a screened porch with a hot tub. When we finished, we realized we had done things backward since the hardwood floor in the living room, dining room, and Kelly's bedroom were on cypress compared with our newer renovations. So we had professional refinishers to finish them up.

During the summer, we decided to add a two-story garage alongside the house so we could demolish the parking shed in back. With the help of a local builder, the new garage started going up one fall. By then, Rusty and Kelly were off at college, but when they came home during breaks we got them to help out. Once the garage was done,



ADVICE: The garage is a great idea. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline.

John demolished the shed, wrote a plan, and then started small enough to pick up. Rusty and I spent three days clearing it out piece by piece through the garage and into a Dumpster. The debris weighed 12 tons.

We spent our family time on renovations the following spring, this time for a living room apartment over the garage—the half new private space.

Almost two years in, and we hadn't yet gotten to the cypress master bedroom or the kitchen. Still, we needed a break from stress, money, and plans. So we settled on clearing up a lot of small trouble like "replace carpet" and "add crown molding to bedrooms." I loaded a long 80 items long.

It took three years to get to the bottom of that list, so we could finally tackle the kitchen and the master bed. We knew it would be cheaper and easier to put down a hardwood floor in the bath and refinish the one underneath the bedrooms in the kitchen at the same time, so we gutted both rooms right away. Luckily, Rusty, who was home for us weeks, stayed down.

For six more months, we had a paneled bedroom kitchen, coffee, and more to the road for work pickup. I drove off one day, warning my husband and son not to show anything else out of the parents' bedroom window until I was safely out of the driveway.

At five years we decided to split the garage into two rooms, which had been carved out of the extra bedroom

years before, in two. We wanted to add a second bath for guests and to have our own for a while. In the end, a laundry area, and that drew four tubs. But how? For dry laundry, we bought a row of three wheels around the walls and a bucket for where it would be a toilet. I had John measure several times, because when measured. I found the tub space on the floor with chalk. A local refinisher was taking it over. The missing leg was replaced by a guy in Chicago who sold vintage old tubs and found a match by looking around in his barns of spare parts.

The shower we bought for the guest bath didn't fit, so we found a plan for it in the master bath. That was when John put down his own floor. He had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline.

When we measured the kitchen, we would have one more room to the kitchen. We would have one more room to the kitchen. We would have one more room to the kitchen.

After seven and a half years of moving out, we finally called the place home.

So, of course, we're already got our eyes on another floor apart.



ADVICE: The kitchen is a great idea. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline.

Make \$250

Get your 10-minute plan. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline.

Get your 10-minute plan. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline. We had a plan and a timeline.



If it doesn't fit in the trunk, spring for the delivery
To save the lumberyard's \$30 fee and second-day delivery, I borrowed my brother's hatchback to pick up a bunch of 2x4s. I slid the lumber in from the rear, over the back seat, past the passenger seat, and onto the dashboard. Happy about the fit and looking forward to riding home with the AC on, I closed the hatchback with a little shove. That's when the door pushed the slightly too long lumber right through the front windshield. The new glass ended up costing \$500—twice as much as the materials and 25 times what it would have cost to have the yard deliver it. —Mark Powers, Senior Technical Editor

IT DOESN'T TAKE COMPANY'S TALK WITH
fresh coat of paint.

If contacted on a daily basis recently
when we hired a painter for some
other work, we asked him to do the
ceiling. Two interestingly little
reports instead of new carpentry
and paint touch-ups where the
ceiling meets the walls. —Detroit
House Producer, TCA/TV

SHOULD HAVE COST \$750
to have the ceiling fixed before the walls
ENDED UP COSTING \$1,500 for the
the ceiling and then made the walls

5. Dental impulse buys
I promised to buy a kitchen faucet I always said one day because I liked the modern lines. I didn't think about how this low-profile faucet would work with my stainless-steel second-sink later after several frustrating attempts to fix a clogged pot. I replaced it with a taller spout. —Deborah Neumann, *Greene Village, Idaho*
SHOULD HAVE COST: \$250 for new faucet.
ENDED UP COSTING: \$500 for two.

6. Don't wing it at the hardware store
I was plumbing a bathroom (and a room addition and passageway) when I'd need at the end of copper tubing and connectors during a quick stop. I knew I might get it wrong and insist to work not making until most of the work was collected (bigger than that) I'd have the right answer, and I would make the layout work. I had for an end or well as possible. —Jennifer Stumpson, Editorial Assistant

SHOCK-A-WAVE CASH-520
END OF COSTUME \$125 while
served this business

8. Wet the sub's your contractor uses
I tried earlier to replace an old floorless shower stall with tile and used the plumber he recommended to install the new shower pan (the liner that sits under the tile mortar bed and has two vertical sides to hold water in). I trusted the tile and didn't check the plumber's credentials thoroughly. When water started pouring through the

bold as your ideas

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coiling fixture in the kitchen is different, says a plumbing designer. He discovered that the shower pan had been cut all the corners so it would be flat. —Tara Rucker Building Technology Editor

3-SHOLD HAVE COSTS—\$2,500
ENDED UP COSTING—\$7,500 and the new shower pan and glazing job

9. Never assume your pro will "take care of it." I used to tell new first contractors taking their first bite at the construction pie that they had better take the job. He walked away the second day in a panic after discovering the walls were being taken down—a tearing up—which he should have known from the engineer's project diagram. The engineer showed up and said we needed \$10,000 in emergency shoring—then promptly quit leaving totally flat but he called the building department, who cited us for working without a permit. The contractor never gotten out.

—Ann Barlow, Mulleirsen & Eicher
SHOULD HAVE COST: \$1,000 for the amount added over the original bid.
HAD SHOULD HAVE DONE: \$20,000 for shoring, per engineer, signed by local contractor, and \$200 for

Conquer
bathroom
chaos
with these
stylish
cabinets

By Keith Pandolfi

Interviewed by
Mark Lunt

Produced by
Collette Scorsone
Styling by
Matthew Matthews

22000000

Matthew Matthews

bath storage



double-basin design

✓ **Factorial**—A fleet of under-the-rack slatwall units with hardware for permanently hanging lighted signs, are double-sided and hold 10 children's toy driver's kits for cars, trucks and the like. Solidwood slatted-rack signs, car-door motifs, turned legs and integrated brass knobs give the top-of-the-line furniture. Priced entry with maple top and two sides, \$2,250. www.com.com for store location.



powder-
room
perfect

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Dorothy Niles has searched
winery websites and e-mail
lists for this one, a small
school in the heart of
Napa Valley. Made of cherry
wood and maple, it is
just 20 feet wide but has
a deep pocket and a
cylindrical design that
allows it to hold
enough for a bottle of
hand-picked. The little
box has two and a half
gallons for the sake of
one or two bottles.
For more info, go to
www.wineryarts.com
or call 707-942-2222.

FLUFFY TOWELS, EXTRA SHAMPOO, THAT VALUE-SIZE TUB-AND-TOILET CLEANER—by finding a place for all the stuff in your bathroom where the only thing that fits under the sink is the plumbing. As one homeowner posting at thesloshouse.com in "Ahhh! Success" says, "How the pedestal sink in my 1930s house, but it has no storage!" Alas, we hear you. And so, apparently, do bath-cabinet makers: "Bath storage has evolved tremendously in the past few years," says Patricia Daylor, an interior designer in Little Falls, New Jersey. "Today you can get vanities in virtually every size and style to help declutter around your sink." Need on to it. It finds that you can solve any household's needs, from apothecary powder-room stand to a dressmaker's case you can pack with bottles, suds, and bath towels, to

trim and traditional

Open spaces have you like it? Here's how to make every inch of your bathroom count. It's a good idea to have a vanity that's made of a material that's easy to clean, like stone or wood. The vanity should have a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink. The vanity should be made of a material that's easy to clean, like stone or wood. The vanity should have a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink.

3000 4000.com for store location



stylish space saver

Getting storage off the floor helps make all bath tasks easier. So does a vanity with getting storage. The vanity has a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink. The vanity should be made of a material that's easy to clean, like stone or wood. The vanity should have a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink.

3000 4000.com for store location



orderly interior

With a lot of storage space, the vanity is a good idea. The vanity has a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink. The vanity should be made of a material that's easy to clean, like stone or wood. The vanity should have a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink.

3000 4000.com for store location

for the minimalist

Storage is the most important feature when you're looking for a vanity. The vanity should have a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink. The vanity should be made of a material that's easy to clean, like stone or wood. The vanity should have a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink.

Adding baskets, boxes, and dividers keeps a vanity organized so the bathroom never gets lost amid the clutter.



for a sleek spa bath

This sleek vanity with a lot of storage space is a good idea. The vanity has a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink. The vanity should be made of a material that's easy to clean, like stone or wood. The vanity should have a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink.

fine design, great value

Inspired by European furniture, this sleek vanity would do well in a modern or traditional bathroom. The vanity has a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink. The vanity should be made of a material that's easy to clean, like stone or wood. The vanity should have a lot of storage space, including drawers and cabinets. The vanity should also have a mirror and a sink.

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**THIS OLD HOUSE
FAMILY PROJECT**

PROJECT - Building a Soccer Goal

How to make a backyard scoring center, with instructions for parents and kids

By Chryelle Fiedler Photographs by Wendell T. Webber

AGE RANGE - 5 and up
COST - \$50
TIME - 2 hours
DIFFICULTY - Very easy. There are many parts, but they're a cinch to cut and fit together with simple connections.

COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE ➔



WHETHER YOU HAVE a budding athlete in your household or you just want to get everyone to play as a family, having a soccer goal in the backyard is a win-win. The one shown here has a basic design and a simple construction, so it can be assembled in an afternoon with tools

already on hand and materials that are easy to get at the home center. And because it's made from PVC pipes, this goal is so lightweight and easy to move that you can set it up whenever you're ready to play. Just put it where it turns the backyard into a playing field, and you'll be ready to score!

SAFETY FIRST

Teach kids good workshop habits from the start. Here are a few guidelines for the tools used in this project:



HAND TOOLS

Kids should be able to use all the tools in this project. Just be sure they understand the dangers of sharp hacksaws and scissors before they pick them up.



GLUES

All PVC pipe cement gives off fumes, even if it's labeled "low VOC." Always work in a well-ventilated area and keep the cap on the bottle when the glue is not in use.



GEAR

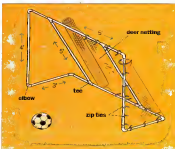
Though they're not absolutely necessary, a pair of fitted work gloves can protect hands from cuts and sticky encounters with glue.

Project design by **Edward Bokor**

1

Lay out the parts

➤ Using a measuring tape, divide the four 10-foot lengths of PVC pipe into the sections needed to assemble the frame of the goal. You will need two 5-foot sections, two 4-foot sections, four 3-foot sections, and four 1-foot sections.



TOOLS YOU'LL NEED➤

- Tape measure
- Permanent marker
- Hacksaw
- Utility scissors

MATERIALS TO BUY➤

- 1½-inch PVC tubing
- 1½-inch PVC elbows
- 1½-inch PVC tees
- 80-grit sandpaper
- PVC pipe cement
- Deer netting
- Zip ties (aka cable ties)
- Small sandbags (optional)

TO PARENTS:

Use the goal to teach older kids about right triangles and the Pythagorean theorem: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. The base is a (3 feet), the side is b (4 feet), and the brace is the hypotenuse, or c (5 feet).



MAKE IT EASY

Get expanded step-by-step instructions and download a cutting guide for this and other family projects at thisoldhouse.com/family



HEY, KID!

Try out your hacksaw skills. Start with slow, small strokes to make a groove on your mark. Then use long, straight strokes to cut all the way through.

2

Cut the pipes

> Lay a marked-up pipe on a worktable with your first cut mark hanging off the edge. Using a hacksaw fitted with a fine-toothed blade, cut the pipe at the mark. Continue until all the pieces are cut. You should be

left with one unused 6-foot piece. If any of your pieces doesn't match the others in length, you can use this extra to make a replacement piece.

> Smooth out the cut ends of the pipes with 80-grit sandpaper so there are no sharp edges or splinters.

3

Assemble the frame

> Dry fit the pieces together. 3-foot and 1-foot pieces together for the top and bottom, 3-foot pieces for the horizontal sides, 4-foot pieces for the vertical sides, and 5-foot pieces for the back braces. Use elbow and tee connectors at the joints, and mark each joint with a line to keep track of how the pieces fit.

> One by one, take apart each joint, wipe PVC pipe cement on the outside of the pipe and the inside of the connector, then fit the two back together. Line up your marks quickly, because pipe cement sets up in seconds.



ONLINE BONUS Watch a video of building this soccer goal—as well as other family projects—at thisoldhouse.com/family

Think About It

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4

Cut the netting

> Take the soccer goal outside. Unroll the deer netting and measure out enough to cover the back and sides of the goal. Using utility scissors, cut the netting to size, leaving a little extra so it will be loose and catch the ball without tearing.

5

Finish the goal

> Wrap the netting around the goalposts, leaving it a little loose. Then secure the netting around the pipes with zip ties placed every few inches. Snip off the long ends of the ties and turn the points to the back to hide them.
> Trim off the excess netting around the front and bottom of the goal. Use small sandbags in the corners of the goal to hold it down. Then grab some players, start a game, and see how long it takes for you to score your first goal!



HEY, KIDS!

Your little hands can be a big help threading the ties through the netting. Just be sure to have a parent check that they're on tight.

Cool Soccer Moves!

Now that you have the soccer goal, you need to learn some important soccer footwork. Here are some of the basic maneuvers you can use to get your ball past the other team.

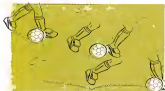


DRIBBLING

This move is essential to the game—it's how you move the ball without using your hands. Tap the ball between your feet as you run down the field—aim for the laces of your sneakers. Try it without looking down, if you can, so you can see where you're going and watch for the other team.

STEP OVER

Fake out your opponent with this move. Start out on your right foot, lunge with your left, step over the ball (or act like you're going to kick it), shift your weight, and blam! the ball is under your right foot where you can turn it to get past your opponent.



INSIDE CUT

This basic soccer move can keep you one step ahead of your opponent! Start by crossing your feet and putting the ball on the outside of your front foot at the arch. Next, drag it to your back foot. Switch feet as you put weight on the "cutting foot," and you've got this move down!

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- ▶ Ask This Old House
- ▶ Norm's Notebook
- ▶ Painter's tape tips
- ▶ Resource Directory

Virtually unchanged at its 12th century, the left corner of the corner to drive the major hole through the corner and the distance to take a corner without hitting the head. Archiving, chunk, addition the 10th century, into the 10th U-shaped handle with a corner to corner, addition—bracket, when something is drilling in right corner.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
LINDSEY L. LAMAR

Ask This Old House



NEED AN EXPERT? WE'VE GOT FIVE READY TO ANSWER YOUR HOME QUESTIONS

Q

WOOD FOR AN OUTDOOR BENCH

We have an outdoor bench with concrete ends and wood slats that has been in our family for many years. The slats have been replaced and repainted many times, and now it looks like we'll have to do it again. Is there a material we can use that's more durable than painted lumber?

JANUARIANO, CHESTERFIELD, MO



Need to go old-school for your outdoor furniture? Try a material that's been around for centuries: concrete.



TOM SILVA

Tom Silva replies: Maintaining any outdoor furniture made of painted wood is a chore. And it's made worse in your case because the slats sit in pockets that hold moisture against the end grain, where the wood is more likely to soak it up. The wood swells up, so the paint lifts and rot takes hold.

You can't change the material, so at least change the wood to a type that does well outdoors: oak, cypress, cedar, pine, or preservative-treated pine. You could let these woods weather naturally to a soft gray color or oil them regularly to help maintain the original color. Oak and pine are good choices because they're soft and won't sag as much as cypress or cedar when you're using one, but they are fairly pricey. Preservative-treated pine isn't soft, durable, and relatively inexpensive. Composite deck boards won't rot, but they're not really stiff enough to hold some one's weight.

Before you put in the new boards, real trees made with a coating such as Ardenstone. The last thing I would ever do is paint the wood—no such insurance.

Q Where's the Overflow?

When traveling in Europe, I noticed that kitchen sinks there all have overflow drains, but I can't find such drains on kitchen sinks here in the States. We have overflows in lavatory sinks and in tubs. Why not in kitchen sinks?

CHARLES MORRIS, FLORENCE, MS

Richard Trethewey replies: The simple answer is that plumbing codes in the U.S. don't require overflow drains, so it's not common for



TOM SILVA

most fixtures to put them in. But that begs the real question: Why don't codes here require those drains?

According to Eric DeMarco of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, an overflow in a kitchen sink creates a sanitation issue. "Food particles could easily lodge in them and cause a rotting mess," he says. European anti-caking, pos-



In Europe, kitchen sinks like this one generally have overflow drains. But they're rare in the U.S.

will be glad to know, have addressed this by providing a way to access and clean out the overflow, but U.S. manufacturers have found it easier not to bother with them at all. Besides, there's simply less need for an overflow in a kitchen sink. Unlike a large bathtub you might walk away from because it takes a long time to fill or a small lavatory sink that fills very quickly, it's just not that common for people to overflow their kitchen sinks.

So why do European codes have overflowed? "It's probably just historical preference," says DeMarco. For whatever reason, early kitchen sinks across the world had overflows, so manufacturers continued to build them and consumers continued to expect them. At DeMarco



TOM SILVA

says, "It's just always been that way, and no one has bothered to change it."

Q Hanging Things on SIPs

The instructions for installing cabinets, microwaves and large mirrors usually say to fasten them to studs. But how do you install heavy objects on walls made with structural insulated panels, which don't have studs?

ROBERTA BELL, WYCKOFF, N.J.

Tom Silva replies: We had that same question come up at the Castle project back in 2004, where we had structural insulated panels, or SIPs, so about the barn. Each SIP panel consists of a core of foam insulation sandwiched between sheets of OSB sheathing. That's it—no studs.

Even so, hanging heavy items on SIP walls is easy. Just screw them to the inside layer of sheathing, as you would to studs. If you need extra holding power, add more screws or hang the items on a Fitch clip.

For maximum holding power and a minimal number of fasteners, use toggle bolts. You'll have to drill through the inner sheathing layer, then follow out a small amount of foam so that the wings of the toggle can spring outward. I did this by cutting off the head of a 1/4" nail, bending a 90-degree, then chiseling in a drill. Spacing the bolt end in the wall did a fine job of ballooning out the foam.

Q Concrete Wall Repair

The floor drain outside my basement door is supposed to drain rainwater to the sump pump inside the basement. However,



TOM SILVA

water is getting in through cracks in the stairwell and the drain has now plugged. How can I prevent this from happening?

BRYAN JOHNSON, WYCKOFF, N.J.

Tom Silva replies: First, clean out the crack to remove any debris and loose concrete, then scrub off any dirt using a stiff brush and a small amount of water. If you really want to do a good job, undercut the sides of the crack slightly using a masonry chisel and a hand chisel or ball joint hammer. Don't use a power mauler, however; they catch when striking the chisel and send sharp pieces of metal flying. Also, be sure to wear safety glasses when chiseling.

Next, mix up a small batch of hydraulic cement, form into the crack, then smooth the surface with a trowel. Work quickly; hydraulic cement sets up fast.

That should prevent any rain coming



Roger Cook fills a horizontal crack with hydraulic cement. It supports its weight, creating a watertight seal.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Stop energy bills from robbing you.

Let's face it: Keeping your house comfortable can cost you a small fortune. But it doesn't have to. Here are some simple steps to help you lower your energy bills.

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If you need more information on how to reduce energy costs, visit carrier.com or call 1-800-CARRIER and talk to an expert.



Take to the Experts!

WORKSPACE Ask This Old House

1 Q: WHAT IS IT?



A
Scented mouse trap

B
Scent-based spider trap

C
Scented moth trap

D
Cat

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through the wall. Now you can dig out the mud in the drain with a scoop or a spoon, whatever works. A drain auger might be able to break up any clogs farther down the pipe. In some cases, we're led to break up the concrete around drains like this to reach the dog and then pour a new floor. But hopefully you won't have to do that.

Q Too Many Mushrooms

Two years ago, after some trees were removed at the front of our house, the stump holes were filled with compact and seeded with grass. This year, along with the grass, we have tiny mushrooms that pop up in great profusion when it rains. Can we get rid of them without killing our lawn?

DAVE WILLIAMS SPRINGFIELD, MO

Roger Cook replies: When you removed the stumps, you probably left behind most of the roots—and a lot of ground squirrels. Their all-sewers-in-kind for the network of underground fungi from which mushrooms sprout. And you probably leached water on the new grass, didn't you? Bingo, the perfect conditions for growing a bumper crop of mushrooms.

Rather than waiting for them to disappear, which could take quite a while, do the following:

- Cut back on watering and reduce fertilizer use to a minimum.
- Pull up any grass around nearby spots. This doesn't get rid of the underground fungus, but it stops spores from being added.
- Core-aerate the lawn in the fall and dethatch in the spring, both of these encourage drainage and help dry out the soil.
- If none of these does the trick, dig out all the hard roots, and start over with fresh soil. Just be aware, you might be in for a lot of digging.



Mushrooms, the more they grow, absorb more nutrients from the soil.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES; MUSHROOMS: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

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15-MINUTE FIX

STICKY SLIDING DOOR

Q I have a sliding door that sticks periodically. I squirt it with silicone, but that wears off in a day. Is there something else I can do?

SARAH MICALLAURLETTE, N.J.

Tim Sheehy replies: You shouldn't put lubricants on the track of a sliding door. They just collect dirt and eventually cause the door to stick even more. The right way to fix your door is by adjusting the height of its rollers so the door slides more freely. First, clean off the track, then follow these four easy steps.

1 Look for the rollers across holes in the bottom centers of the door frame, either on the inside face or the slide edges. Sometimes they are covered with plugs.

2 Put a flat blade screwdriver in one of the holes. It acts as the roller's adjusting screw, and turn the screwdriver slightly to raise or lower that end of the door. If you're not sure which direction to turn the screw, rest your fingers against the edge of the door as you rotate the screwdriver; you'll feel the door move up-and-down. Do the same on the door's other end.

3 Slide the door up to the slide jamb until you see a vertical sliver of light between the edge of the jamb and the door. That gap should be the same width from top to bottom. If you take some fussing to get both rollers just the right height, but this should stop the sticking.

4 When you're done, make sure that you've locked the door. If not, loosen the screws on the rear bar—the horizontal track mount—on the jamb and adjust its height so you can latch the door securely.



A flat blade screwdriver
raises the rollers that
slide the door in or
out.

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► MASTER CARPENTER NORM ABRAHAM'S TECHNIQUES FOR MAKING TAPE FEATURED IN TOOLBOX P. 57

🔗 [slide specialized masking tapes out there](#)

Of all the specialized masking tapes out there, I like Bluegrain's tape more than any other. It won't sweatshed a sticky residue on surfaces.

If you take it off a time, and it's easy to see, making it the more variable than the tax making back (give up with, for instance, I've used the left side blue tape on flowers help avoid vision where it's clear would be. And I've put it on the walls to determine the best way to place it on a screen. This is a good way to



Five to six months after the start of the wintering in dormitories, the spread of the virus that causes the disease is at its peak. The virus is in the air, and it is in the air. I have been working with a host of mail plastic and seal around the entire opening, including the floor with plastic's tape. The winter stays there until the dust settles and I can clean it up. You go to bed and out of the room where the virus is hiding. I use another kind of tape—an adhesive-backed zipper like the one made by Zip Mail—that lets you peel it off and use a vertical slit in the winter.

Applying masking tape up against any straight edge such as a hand saw will go quickly if you follow these steps, which keep you from pulling the tape so hard that it stretches.



1. Break or remove shrubbery from the area. Pull about 12 inches of tape off the roll and under the least soil with a touch of your thumb. Lower the tape so the white and green (the basement)



2. **Stick down the roll-out** with another light touch. Then touch the tape every few inches between the two anchor points.



3. **Growth the legs** by moving your fingers along the entire length. Repeat with the rest 20 inch segment. However, 10th edge you're taping and it should shorten the segments repeated.

◆ HOME TIP

To get a clean edge on a flat surface, say when painting slopes, slowly pull the tape toward the paintbrush at a 45-degree angle to the stuck line (2). If the tape is in the corner between surfaces that are perpendicular to each other, such as a wall and window frame, pull the tape away from the painted surface at a 45-degree angle (3).



Any time I use a circular saw or lighter in a lay like I don't need to scratch, I first cover the saw's metal base with a single layer of 2-inch-wide tape. That tape provides slight protection in wood when cutting, painted, laminated or veneered surfaces. Make sure the tape rows don't overlap; three edges should butt up neatly without any gaps.



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IT WAS THE EVENING DAYS of the Civil War. General William T. Sherman and his Union Army were closing in on Columbia, South Carolina, looking to torch the State House. And Governor Andrew Gordon Magrath needed to get out of town. Fast.

Luckily, his old college buddy, Judge Thomas Dawkins, offered a safe haven in his white clapboard house in the nearby town of Union. Magrath stayed, moving his offices into Dawkins's two front-floor parlors. His stay's details long faded, but the war never ended. Magrath was imprisoned, and Dawkins's house entered the history books as the last state capital building in Confederate South Carolina.

The house was built in the Federal style in 1800, but Dawkins added a new front porch and facade when he purchased it in 1845. He named his new residence "The Senator," after the English estate on which his wife, Mary, grew up. Though its original spiral staircase was removed years ago, many details are still in place, including a fireplace in which Governor Magrath incinerated Confederate documents before they fell into Union hands. The original doors, floor, and even some new windows still stand, as well as eight original mantels.

Placed on the National Register in 1974, the Dawkins house saw a sad state of disrepair because of years of neglect. In 1999 it was donated to the University of South Carolina Union, which planned to restore it and use it for offices before turning it to budget constraints. The university recently donated the house to the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, which is offering it for a back-bythecomments attached to a preservation-minded buyer willing to complete a hard-to-find restoration within five years. Aside from some serious exterior work, the new owner will be responsible for being the valued four walls and evicted foundation and adding new heating, plumbing, and HVAC systems. Get on your knees; you can't see a piece of Civil War history with plenty of room for the occasional unexpected house guest. —**ALYSSA KODOLU**



Remnants of a house that stood as a refuge and a refuge for the Union in the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, New York, NY 10002 or www.palmettotrust.org.

(1) An overgrown back porch and a new entrance the house's kitchen are surprisingly intact. (2) The Dawkins house has a blue bay window, a dormer by the chimney, (3) Staying guests, but Judge Dawkins is likely to refuse to enter. (4) A fireplace in which Governor Magrath's Confederate documents were burned. (5) A 19th-century daguerrotype of Judge Dawkins.



The Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that preserves historic properties in South Carolina. The Trust is currently seeking a buyer for the Dawkins house in Union, South Carolina. The house is a two-story Federal-style house with a red door and a bay window. The house is in good condition and is a great example of Federal architecture. The Trust is offering the house for sale at a very low price. The Trust is offering the house for sale at a very low price. The Trust is offering the house for sale at a very low price.

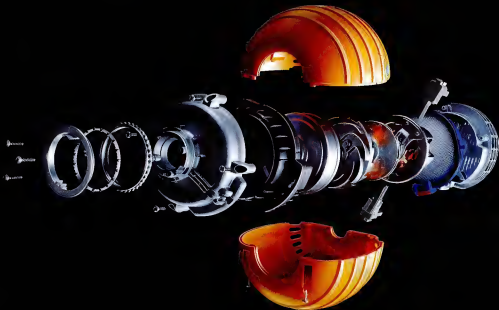


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