



SPACES

Tips for kitchen updates as holidays approach

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A great entreaty as we approach the holidays! "Please share some tips for updating my kitchen without a complete remodel."

This is a great request to be best illustrated with before/after examples, but impossible to convey in this limited space. There are several examples on my website. It is a practical inquiry applying to homeowners, family chefs and, really, anyone who loves to cook and finds the kitchen the fulcrum of their home! Coming indoors as the weather cools and planning for holiday meals, makes kitchen rejuvenations the perfect topic!

An entire new kitchen involves the imposition, temporary loss of kitchen conveniences, disruption and expense of a complete remodel. But consider the many things that would improve the function, update the look, and refresh the feeling of this very central heartbeat of daily living.

If you are considering changes in your kitchen, ask yourself what about your kitchen you feel needs change. What could be improved aesthetically or functionally. Just what bothers you? What is it to you/your family? How do you feel when creating meals there? If it isn't pure joy, perhaps it's time to make some alterations!

Look around and take stock of the following details. Let's make a list.



New countertops, new painted doors, existing boxes with full wall tile installation transformed this kitchen.



New countertops, new painted doors with new high glass cabinets accented with glass wall tile & new flooring – refreshed!

a kitchen. Consider recessed, wall sconces, surface-mounted, under-cabinet, lamps, pendants or chandeliers...

Sinks: A single or double, surface or under-mount, how deep, stainless or other, extra attachments... and might you have more than one in your kitchen? Prep sink? Wet bar?

Colors: It is not so much about what is trending in colors, it is about what makes you comfortable and happy. What is the context with the rest of your interior?

Lighting: The effects of lighting work-surfaces, illuminating dark pockets, or cabinet interiors play a major role in the function and appearance of



The addition of a new colorful tile backsplash made an artistic impact in this existing kitchen – tying together all existing elements.

but the doors show wear. Maybe hinges have slipped or failed, minor adjustments can often be made. Either refinishing or replacing the doors can go a long way toward making your kitchen appear new. Changing the color and hardware – cabinet jewelry – results in vast improvements.

Countertops: Tile countertops versus seamless solid surfaces. It seems criminal to replace solid stone countertops – but to each his/her own. I would evaluate other surrounding elements before I replace something of such value.

Flooring: Ease of maintenance, comfort and appearance, flooring is a major element in any space. Transitions into other adjacent rooms will indicate how far you would need to go to replace your floor. Or, you can isolate your kitchen from the rest of the adjoining areas, if that makes sense. Otherwise, changing your kitchen floor might mean additional flooring that must be considered.



An existing mountain retreat received new satin black granite countertops and dramatic full wall tile over previous off-white walls complementing existing pine cabinets and brick floor.



Existing granite countertop & sink remained. Existing cabinets painted blue from stained oak with new Talavera full-wall tile to coordinate all finishes was a success!

Backsplash: An exciting design element. Plain walls, countertop curbs or monolithic slabs of material can seem monotonous denying opportunities for color, texture, and/or pattern going vertical. Tile, like wallpaper, can cover an entire wall rather than be limited to the backsplash area, but where to stop it? Planning details wisely is important. Examine the opportunities/more dramatic effects that bold applications of tile can provide.

Wallcovering: Wallpaper can have dramatic decorative effects for a kitchen. Other wallcoverings such as wood, mirror or metal can also bring textures and add drama to a kitchen's décor.

Appliances: If you believe that a new appliance would change your life, there are always new gadgets or improved models of the standards that can make your kitchen function better/easier. Colors, finishes and configurations make a difference.



Existing cabinets received new doors and paint. Stone wall texture and new wood floors added warmth. New granite and lighting really refreshed & updated this kitchen.

Storage: Who doesn't need more storage? Pantries remodeled to make better use of space, cabinets versus drawers, pull-out shelves, all the funky inserts for spices, shallow door shelves, and serving tray or cookie sheet slots for thin platters and pieces are also options.

There are always opportunities to make minor changes to refresh or improve without starting from scratch!

Your Neighbor,

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