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Inspection Times

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ASK THE INSPECTOR...

Question

We have a home built in the 1960's and would like to update it. What are some things we can do to add real value to our home?

Answer

The remodeling trend today focuses on a move to informal living. Home owners want a comfortable and functional place in which to live. About 61 percent of consumers say they work to get the most from their remodeling dollar, according to a survey by Better Homes and Gardens. One reason: home equity loans are not as easy to get, so more remodelers are paying with cash savings.

Duo Dickinson, author of *Remodel your Home to Get the Home You Want*, says these are the most popular projects now.

- Remodelers want to connect with the outdoors with larger windows and with decks and porches.
- The livable kitchen is the new living room. People want to enjoy a lot of different activities there so chairs are being made comfy for lounging. Walk-in pantries replace cabinets, which can block views.
- They want more-open floor plans that connect the kitchen to more than one other room.
- Smaller master baths are a trend. To save space, skip the spa tubs in favor of larger showers and vanities. Focus more on finishes than cabinet size.
- Mudrooms or "drop zones" are popular as Americans work to reduce clutter and make their homes more orderly. If there's no room for a mudroom, creating a "drop zone" for shoes and boots will do.
- Universal design. Baby boomers are building wider doors, which can accommodate wheel chairs, and step-free showers. Because they don't know what their physical conditions will be later in life, they may also widen hallways.

KITCHEN BACKSPLASH ADDS COLOR AND STYLE

Many people think the counter backsplash is mostly a decoration. In fact, it's needed to protect the walls from splashes of grease and cooking oil.

If your choice of backsplash is mainly for esthetics, there are a world of colors, materials, tile sizes and tile shapes to choose from.

One popular choice is glass tiles. They come in many colors, are not porous and reflect the light, making the kitchen brighter. But they are more expensive than ceramics and harder to cut.

Without doubt, the glass kitchen backsplash is something not everyone has and it looks incredible, according to www.kitchenweekly.com. Backsplash materials such as copper, brass, and stainless steel have been around a long time but usually in a commercial kitchen setting. Now, you can choose a backsplash made from these materials for your home.

You might use the metal tile alone or coupled with glass or ceramic, creating something stunning and functional.

Stainless steel kitchen backsplashes come in various styles. A brushed finish enhances its visual appeal while providing light reflection on food prep or cooking areas.



If you have questions about home inspections or home maintenance, Ask the Inspector!

Call Pete Jung at 301-351-1113

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