

Top 5 Kitchen Design Fixes Under \$500.00

Whether your panic is driven by the holiday's looming around the corner or an impending visit by out of town relatives the impulse to make the house look better is universal. So too is the feeling that any improvement will cost more money than your budget can afford and thus the idea is pushed to the back of the line and often are forgotten.

Life experience has taught me that breaking big challenges down into smaller, more manageable tasks; and then executing these tasks in effective and intelligent ways is what success is really about. I believe anyone can have a more beautiful home. I also believe that this process can be broken down into bite-size projects that don't need to break the bank or put a strain on the household budget.

The key to this type of beautification process is setting a limit on the investment into any one project and then drilling down, through the process of focus, to select the specific project to be tackled.

If the kitchen is high on your project list here are my Top Five Kitchen Design Fixes Under \$500.00:

1. **New Paint.** Few things deliver as much environmental change in a room as does adding a new color to the walls and ceiling. While you can play it safe and simply refresh the existing color but I'd recommend exploring a new, unexpected color; one that will put a smile on your face. If you shop smart and negotiate a good rate with a qualified painter you can have a freshly painted kitchen for under \$500.00. If you're up to the task you can save more money by doing the work yourself.

2. **New Back-splash.** Options abound for adding a new back-splash to a kitchen. Stone, tile, glass and mirror are major categories you will discover when you begin searching for your new back-splash materials. For some, upgrading to a full-height splash from the anemic 4" splash offered by many developers is the way to go. For others removing a splash that doesn't make you smile and installing something fresh and new is just what their kitchen needs. Be smart about the product you select and work hand-in-hand with your tile installer to meet or beat the \$500.00 budget goal.

3. **Fresh Hardware.** If your kitchen is humming along nicely and you love the major elements but just want to freshen up the overall effect; new hardware can be just what you need. Much like a fashionable woman who changes the look of an outfit by changing her jewelry; swapping new cabinet hardware out for old can add style and elegance while keeping the project costs within budget.

4. Bright, Stylish Lighting. Adding ceiling cans, a hanging fixture over an island or counter or installing under-counter lighting can go far to radically change the look and illumination of your kitchen. Some lighting changes are simple for the DIY homeowner. For more involved installations always hire well-recommended professional help.

5. Area Rugs. Whether a woven rag-rug or an elegant oriental rug adding something beautiful to the floor of your kitchen is a great way to change the look and feel of this important room in the house. Find something you love that's consistent with the design of your home (contemporary, traditional.. etc..) buy a non-skid pad for safety and enjoy this new addition to your kitchen.