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EVERYTHING AND THE KITCHEN SINK

by Linda Mazur

With spring just around the corner, our thoughts naturally move towards renovating. In my work as a designer I must admit, kitchens are one of my most favourite rooms to design and renovate. Whether you're in a new home and looking to renovate, or getting ready to sell, your kitchen can always use a facelift to make it a better fit for your needs and personality; or perhaps more attractive for the next homeowner.

The easiest elements to update in your kitchen, and perhaps the most obvious, are your cabinets and countertops. Changing your cabinetry can be expensive but definitely a good way to inject your own personality in your new home. If however, you

are considering selling or are working on a limited decorating budget for your new home, consider painting your cabinetry or simply re-facing the doors if your cabinets are in good condition. With a bit of work and some trendy new hardware you can create a great new look in your space. Countertop updates will always add value to your kitchen. There are many wonderful solid surface products available that vary in pricing. From natural granite and marble, to Caesarstone and quartz, the choices are endless. When making the investment, whether for your personal use or resale, be wise in your selections. Keep in mind that you will be living with this for quite awhile. You don't need to be conservative, but I always like to advise my clients



to select a timeless look for your counter – you can always be a bit more adventurous with your backsplash selection.

We've addressed some of the more obvious elements of your kitchen that can give you a great updated look, but let's not forget what I sometimes like to refer to as the "jewelry" in your kitchen – your sink and faucet. Today we have an abundance of great, smart designs to select from when it comes to sinks and faucets; not to mention that the technology that has been created over the years has focused on making our lives simpler and our investments longer lasting.

When designing a kitchen space, I turn to Blanco for my selections. Consider their exclusive Silgranit line of sinks and coordinating faucets. These sinks are virtually indestructible: not only durable but resistant to scratches, impact, stain and heat. They are the leading manufacturers in Canada of coloured sink material, implementing a durable composite combined with up to 80% natural granite. The sinks are available in seven different colours that are inspired by earthy, natural tones, which blend well with so many trending countertop possibilities to create a seamless look in your kitchen.

Their new Diamond U2 Low Divide sink was designed to make clean up significantly easier and faster. The large double bowls has the conventional look that's always popular, while a low central partition makes it easy to fit large pots and pans for washing. One of



my favourite releases this year is the Ikon apron sink, or farmhouse sink. The design of this sink offers great lines and a slightly tapered profile giving us a modern twist to the traditional apron front design.

For smaller-space dwellers, Blanco has introduced some great products that can pull double duty to increase the efficiency in your kitchen. The Quatrus Gourmet Series enables you to create added work space at your sink by adding-on accessories such as a grid tray, an optional cutting board that slides over the sink, colanders or a drainer board, allowing for a distinctly functional work space.

Whether you are giving the kitchen in your new home some personality or looking to update to sell, make sure you give equal thought to your sink and faucet as you would your cabinetry and counters, you might be surprised at the reaction and return on investment when you reveal your new kitchen.



Designer Linda Mazur is the Principal Designer of Linda Mazur Design Group. With over a decade of experience, this sought out multi-disciplinary interior design firm is known for providing innovative interior renovations and full scale build projects that reflect both timeless style and optimal functionality. The firm services Toronto, Greater Toronto Area and surrounding areas. www.lindamazurdesign.com @LindaMazur Group