

Decorating Tips & Tricks – Kitchen Makeover

By Monica Stanciu

Are you tired of your kitchen? The dark colored cabinets suck up all the light or the washed-out colour that was such a big hit in the '80s is... well... a thing of the '80s. You want a new modern kitchen, but this can set you back thousands of dollars and you don't have the budget for it.

A kitchen makeover doesn't necessarily mean replacing the old boxes with all new cabinets. As long as the frames and doors are structurally sound, you can clean them up and brush on some new paint, and within a weekend you can take that kitchen into the 21st century.

All you need is some strong cleaner, sandpaper, a good quality paintbrush, and a little elbow grease. The transformation will cost you a fraction of even the cheapest new cabinets. To complete the project, replace the dated hardware and voila, a new look at a fraction of the cost. And that's news that should sure light up your day.

On the right is an example of a kitchen makeover, courtesy of Martin Designs Inc. The homeowner wanted to get a more modern and sophisticated look with a minimum investment. What a transformation!



Steps to follow when painting kitchen cabinets:

1. Tape to protect the adjacent areas. Wash the cabinets with an industrial cleaner such as TSP (Tri-Sodium Phosphate), which you can buy at Home Depot or Rona.
2. Remove cabinet doors and hardware and fill in the old holes if you decide to change the hardware too.
3. Prime and leave to dry for 6-7 hrs.
4. Gently sand the primer to smooth away brush strokes. Vacuum all surfaces and wipe with a cloth or sponge
5. Paint using a good quality brush. Let dry and apply a second coat. The paint cures in 1 day or 2, depending on the weather. Wait until the paint is completely cured before you attach the hinges and then attach to the frames.

For professional advice in decorating your home or to prepare your house for sale, please contact me at: monica@staged2sell.ca or 416-912-6734

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