



DID YOU KNOW? – April 2010

This month includes:

- **Countertop Choices – Part 3**
- **New Lead Based Paint Legislation**
- **Project Pictures**

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This month, we conclude our countertop series with a look at wood, stainless steel, quartz, and granite tops. In addition, we need to make you aware of the U.S. EPA's new regulations for renovation work on older homes to protect homeowners, children, and remodelers from exposure to lead, a substance known to have ill effects on humans. Read below for a recap of the new requirements and how they might affect your remodeling project. Finally, we have a couple pictures from a recent contemporary kitchen project for an Indianapolis homeowner.

Enjoy and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Rob Davis & Curt Wible

Countertop Choices – Part 3



In this month's newsletter, we focus on Wood, Stainless Steel, Quartz, and Granite countertop choices.

Wood countertops provide a very warm look for kitchen remodeling projects. Often, wood is used for the kitchen island, with the balance of the countertops done in a different material. Wood is ideal for cutting/chopping and surface scratches are easily sanded out. The top can be made from a variety of hardwoods, including maple, walnut, teak, and mahogany. Maple is the most common due to its hard surface and closed grain. While wood countertops have natural properties to protect it from bacteria buildup, it needs regular maintenance with mineral oil. Hot cookware can also scorch a wood countertop.

Stainless Steel is very popular in high-tech kitchen renovations, professional kitchens, and upscale restaurants. It is a very tough surface that is impervious to stains and hot cookware. On the downside, stainless steel tops show scratches and nicks very easily. Recently the cost has been prohibitive for some projects. Newer styles include brushed or textured finishes to help hide scratches.

Quartz Countertops are an engineered material made from quartz crystals (about 90%), colors, and resin. Quartz is more consistent in color and pattern than granite. Quartz makes an extremely durable countertop, is non-porous, resists stains, is heat-resistant, and does not require any sealing. On a cost basis, quartz is likely to be more expensive than granite.

Granite, or natural stone countertops, are very popular and provide a beautiful surface in kitchens, bathrooms, and bar projects. With granite, each slab is unique, with random patterns and veining. Natural stone is scratch, heat, and stain-resistant, providing an extremely durable countertop. Granite does need to be sealed and it is important to use a qualified installer to ensure the visibility of seams is minimal.

New Lead Based Paint Legislation

Beginning April 22, 2010, federal law will require contractors disturbing more than six square feet of lead-based paint in pre-1978 facilities to be trained, certified and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination of residents and workers. Lead is known to be especially dangerous to children under six years of age and pregnant women, potentially leading to reduced IQ, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems.

The most common way to be exposed to lead is through dust. Lead-based paint was used in homes until banned in 1978. Remodeling projects that disturb lead-based paint have the potential to create lead containing dust. The older the home, the greater the likelihood the paint contains lead. Statistics show ...

- 24% of homes built between 1960 and 1978 contain lead-based paint
- 69% of homes built between 1940 and 1960 contain lead-based paint
- 87% of homes built prior to 1940 contain lead-based paint

To prevent lead contamination, the new law requires all contractors to be certified and to follow these work practices for any structure built before 1978 ... 1) **test for presence of lead** paint, 2) **contain the work area** so that dust and debris do not escape the area, 3) use methods to **minimize dust creation**, 4) **clean up thoroughly**, and 5) **verify** removal of lead based paint dust. To receive certification, contractors must successfully complete training on these techniques.

While many remodeling projects do not disturb lead-based paint, you need to check your contractor's certification for projects in older structures. The KitchenWright has Certified Renovators on staff and can help ensure projects are handled correctly to prevent lead contamination.

Project Pictures

Attached are two pictures of a recently completed contemporary kitchen project. If you are interested in updating your kitchen, please stop in for a free design consultation.



We hope you find our newsletter helpful. If you have any questions or would like to talk with one of our professional designers about a remodeling project, please give us a call (317-848-1111), stop by our showroom in Carmel Indiana, or send us an email at info@thekitchenwright.com.