



DID YOU KNOW? – July 2010

This month includes:

- **Kitchen Lighting**
- **Merillat Kitchen Give-Away**

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In this month's newsletter, we provide information on various types of lighting in a kitchen remodeling project. Lighting design is an important element in achieving the desired functionality and feel for your kitchen. We are also excited to inform you about a kitchen give-away sponsored by Merillat cabinetry. Read below for details on how to enter the contest. Remember to visit our Facebook page for remodeling tips, design trends, and links to valuable home improvement information.

As always, let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Rob Davis & Curt Wible

Kitchen Lighting

In today's homes, the kitchen has become the gathering spot for family activities and entertaining. Lighting is an important element in making this a warm and inviting room. The use of a single fixture to light the entire room is no longer sufficient. To help make the kitchen a comfortable and functional room, four types of lighting need to be incorporated during remodeling projects ... ambient, task, accent, and decorative. To help plan kitchen lighting, a brief primer on each type follows.



Task Lighting focuses light on areas of the kitchen where activities occur. This includes food preparation, cooking, reading a cookbook, paying bills, or even homework. This form of lighting makes the kitchen functional. Typically, task lighting is situated between the work surface and the person working in the kitchen. These lights are mounted underneath wall cabinets or over the preparation/work area. The picture on the left provides an example of task lighting at a kitchen cook top. A variety of lights are used as task lighting, including pendant lights, under counter puck lights, and certain types of rope lighting.

Ambient Lighting creates a warm and inviting atmosphere, attracts people to the kitchen, and softens the shadows in the kitchen. With the increased level of entertaining that occurs in the kitchen, ambient lighting is very important. Ambient lighting fixtures include flush-mounted ceiling fixtures (can lights), pendant lights, and track lighting. The kitchen pictured on the right is using both can lights and pendant lights for ambient lighting.





Accent Lighting is more prevalent with the kitchen's use for casual entertaining. Accent lights highlight architectural details, artwork, unique backsplashes, or collectibles (picture on left.) This lighting adds dimension and depth to the room and creates a focal point, drawing attention to particular objects in the room. Track lighting, directional eyeball lights, in-cabinet lighting, rope lighting, and wall sconces are all examples of accent lighting.

Decorative Lighting (pictured below) is used to add sparkle to a kitchen. In larger spaces, pendant lights, chandeliers, wall sconces, or other catchy light fixtures are more important. These fixtures are also the most expensive. If the budget is limited for a remodeling project, the infrastructure for decorative lighting (junction boxes, wiring) can be installed, but the actual fixture can be purchased in the future.

Finally, it is important to coordinate the various types of kitchen lighting. The use of light zones and dimmer switches is very effective in creating the desired atmosphere in a remodeling project.



Merillat Kitchen Giveaway

Merillat is giving away a dream kitchen to one lucky homeowner this summer. Merillat and Today's Homeowner with Danny Lipford are partnering for another Today's Dream Kitchen Contest. From now until July 25, 2010, participants can enter online at www.dannylipford.com to win a complete kitchen makeover, including countertops, flooring, appliances and Merillat cabinets.

The theme of the contest is focused on function. Entrants will be asked to enter a photo of their non-functional kitchen and write a short essay. One grand prize winner will be chosen based on a number of criteria, with the winner being announced in August. Good luck!

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.