TRENDS

19 Wow-Worthy Kitchen & Bath Upgrades

By Claire Ruhlin

When it comes to kitchens and baths, even the smallest changes can have a huge impact. This is especially great news when you consider that updates to those two rooms give you the highest return on your investment when it comes time to sell. To help you bring your kitchen and bath into 2022, and beyond, we've rounded up our top tips and tweaks for making these spaces shine.



Add a freestanding tub

tub-all while looking super stylish.

Install a self-lit vanity mirror

Good lighting is essential, especially if you get ready in the bathroom Enter the self-lit vanity

especially those with little to no natural light. Consider using LED lighting for a more sustainable choice.



Pump up the greenery

Indoor-outdoor living is only becoming more popular, and there's no better way to inject life into your kitchen or bath than by incorporating plants. No green thumb? Fake ith faux greenery that, when high-quality enough, looks just as lifelike as the real thing.



Freestanding soaking tubs are a modern and

dern twist to the trend. Generally easy to install, these

tubs take up less space than a drop-in or deck-mounted

elegant swap. There's, of course, the classic clawfoot tub, but flat-bottom freestanding tubs add a

Upgrade your countertops If anything's worth the splurge, it's countertops. Pay attention to 2022's top countertop materials: ineered quartz and quartzite, which natural, nonporous stones. Also trending: butcher block countertops, which add a sense of texture and

urtesy of (1) Kohler Co.; (4) Cambria urtesy of Meriwether Design Group

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DIY fluted cabinetry Give your existing bathroom cabinetry new life without replacing the entire vanity. Simply fake the look of fluted cabinetry with half-round molding (available at most hardware stores), wood glue

and paint.

Integrated technology When it comes to creating a modern kitchen, gadgets and gizmos are all the rage. Appliances like refrigerators and oven with smartphone controls and wireless capabilities can help make your life easier. Some smart refrigerators even have built-in cameras inside, so you can check and see what you need to add to your grocery list



Not into tile? This update is for you. Implement a slab kitchen backsplash by co your countertop slab up the wall. The result is a modern look that's seamless and easy to clean (no grout, no problem).



Pop in a beverage refrigerator Renovating homeowners are increasingly adding refrigeration specifically for beverages. Unlike a mini-fridge, these coolers have shelves that are designed explicitly for beverages rather than food. They're also compact in size and make entertaining a breeze.

Textured tiles Subway tile isn't going anywhere, but in 2022. expect a move towards textured, handmade tile finishes. Opt for white brick, stone or ceramic tiles for a sense of organic warmth.

Warmth is in, particularly in the form of wood elements, like exposed beams and recla (Think upcycling a reclaimed table as a

Cleverly concealed outlets give kitchens a streamlined feel. the sides of your island or cabinetry. Or convert

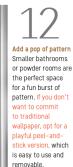


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Patina From hardware to sinks, unlacquered finishes with a natural patina add a lived-in element that gives the impression of a timehonored space. It's also an easy way to add depth and texture, keeping kitchens and baths from looking too sterile or utilitarian.

Cabinet contrast Add a pop of contrast by wood tone, on the island cabinetry than what's used in the rest of the kitchen. It's an easy way to add interest without using patterns or bold colors.



Something to consider for your bathroom upgrade: a touchless faucet. Not only does it's also easy to use and prevents the transmission of germs



Keep your feet toasty with the addition of radiant floor heating, which can be installed beneath flooring and controlled via a

Bring mood lighting into the shower Sometimes long baths get all the glory, but who says showers can't be just as relaxing? Up the luxury with color-changing LED shower lighting that can adapt to your every mood



Color can change the entire look and feel of your space. In the kitchen, consider subtle green, like Sherwin-Williams' color of the year. Evergreen Fog. Alternatively, cover cabinets with contact paper for a quick, nonpermanent fix

Larger islands

Kitchen islands are no longer just for food prep. Since the pandemic, they've also ework stations, as more people live, work and play from home. These days, it's not uncommon for kitchen islands to be more than 7 feet long. In