



Cabinet maker Bill Miller had time to remodel his own kitchen recently.

Photo by Dave Lawton

# Kitchens: People are making them fancy

by SCOTT MAGUIRE  
of The Outlook staff

When East County residents remodel their kitchens, they are installing tile, islands and new gadgets.

Some of them are following the latest trends which include installing garden windows, pantries and putting Jenn-Aire ranges in the islands.

"Tile is being used for floor and counters," said Cecil Smith, who runs a construction and remodeling business. Smith operates out of his Solar and More store at 2451 NW 11 Mile Ave.

"Linoleum patterns are even being done in tile patterns," he said. "Because of the popularity, there are lots of tile colors for the interior decorator and the do-it-yourself decorator to choose from. We have just received 20 colors of new grout, and they are beautiful."

The attraction to tile is not clear, but Jerry Carriere of Gresham Decor Center, 1455 E Burnside Road, offers some ideas.

"It is a little bit more expensive, but it is a life-time surface," he said. "A lot of people are using tile as a back-splash, for color."

Tile is also an easy thing for the amateur to install, he

said. The main ingredients are a smooth surface, some adhesive, the tile, and grout to fill in the cracks.

Kitchen islands containing cupboards, drawers, sinks and appliances come and go, depending on the wants of the individual, says Smith.

However, Bill Miller, owner of Pee Wee Cabinets, 2559 SE Barnes Road, says "just about every kitchen has an island."

Islands are used for sinks, although only a bar-sized sink is recommended by most builders. People often put a Jenn-Aire range in the island, because it has a fan that pulls the air down, eliminating the need for a range hood.

Cabinet cuts for trash compactors are fading, Miller said. But people are requesting more pull-out and pop-up shelves and fold-out racks.

Karen Collins of Collins Construction in Gresham, says most kitchens are using "lazy susans," which are rotating shelves used in corner cabinets to make it easier to reach things in the cabinet.

Many people are asking for pop-up shelves to keep food processors and other small appliances on, she said. They operate like a typewriter shelf that folds in and out of a desk.

Preferences in cabinet finishes have changed also,

Miller says.

"Customers are demanding more quality in cabinets," he says. "The days of chipboard cabinets are over. People want more for their money."

Oak is the most asked for wood for kitchen cabinets, he said.

Garden windows are becoming more and more popular, Smith says. They are an attractive way for people to have plants in the kitchen.

Sun roofs, bay windows and solariums are popular in the larger homes, he said.

Carriere believes people are using the whole spectrum of paint colors in the kitchen, with many people also adding wall paper to add a splash of variety. Smith has noticed a return to the basic grays and pinks that were popular 20 years ago. And Collins has seen a lot of people using blue tones in kitchens, as well as some bright and vivid colors that don't normally appear in kitchens.

The East County remodelers contacted say that remodeling a kitchen will cost between \$9,000 and \$20,000. The upper estimates would include replacing appliances. The actual cost for new cabinets ranges between \$500 and \$800, Miller says.

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