

Color Ideas For Kitchens Win Approval

Gay, colorful decorating schemes for kitchens are being widely accepted in place of the cheerless hospital whiteness common during the last few decades, says American Builder, home building industry magazine.

The trend in kitchen decoration is toward colors which reflect the personality of the housewife, the magazine explains. Selection of a color scheme thus becomes a matter of individual taste.

Types of modern floor coverings range from inlaid linoleum to asphalt and rubber tile and laminated vinyl flooring. All these materials, the magazine says, are available in both solid colors and variegated patterns.

Colors Permanent

The colors are permanent. Kitchen floor materials also are resistant to chemicals and strong cleaning solutions.

American Builder says approved kitchen wall materials vary from paint or wallpaper on plaster walls to ceramic tile. Others are panels and tiles with metal mouldings at the joints, interlocking tiles, chromite zinc panels, wall-flex, mura-tex and asbestos-cement boards with metal mouldings.

Tiles and panels are adaptable to modernization as well as new construction, the magazine says. These materials simplify the job of making a kitchen a more pleasant room in which to work.

Combinations Suggested

"Interesting color combinations can be obtained in the kitchen through the use of several different wall materials," American Builder adds. "This method has a tendency to reduce the cost, depending, of course, on the types of materials used."

Large Fuel Savings Possible If House Is Winter-Conditioned

Steps to save fuel and money during the winter heating season fall into three categories, says the Construction Research Bureau, New York clearing house for building information: (1) structural winter-conditioning; (2) heating plant operation; (3) family habits.

Winter-Conditioning

Installation of storm windows and doors and weatherstripping will save 12% of the fuel. Insulation of walls and roof with full-thick mineral wool will effect a one-third fuel saving. Caulking all cracks in the siding and around windows and doors will save still more fuel. Insulation with batts or blankets of mineral wool beneath floors over unheated spaces should not be overlooked since about 9% of the heat is lost through unprotected floors. The furnace and pipes or ducts leading from it also must be insulated to save fuel. If all these steps are taken before bad weather begins, the average householder should be able to reduce fuel consumption by at least 50%, the Bureau states.

Furnace Operation

Large amounts of fuel will be saved if the heating plant is thoroughly cleaned and put in first class condition before the heating season starts and a careful operating system is followed through the winter.

Coal Furnace

Clean the ash pit daily. Remove ashes and clinkers from the grates every 2 to 6 weeks. Check all doors and openings occasionally to be sure they fit and operate properly.

"A method which has proved extremely popular is the use of tiles or wall panels on the cabinet walls with a highly decorative fire paper on walls without fixtures. This makes a kitchen a gay and delightful place."

erly. Keep plenty of fuel in the furnace to avoid a thin fire bed. Before adding fresh coal, push the top layer aside so that red-hot coals can be racked back over the new coal to burn the gasses. Avoid excessive shaking and poking.

Thermostat and Valves

Save 10% of the fuel by holding the thermostat at 68 degrees and setting it at 60 during the night. Keep the air in the house humidified with daily filling of radiator pans or furnace humidifier. Check steam radiator valves often for proper operation and open hot water radiator valves once a month to prevent radiators becoming air-bound.

Other Things To Do

Close unused rooms and seal the cracks around the doors.

Close bedroom doors at night and place a rolled-up rug at the threshold. Do not hold an exterior door open for conversations. Keep window shades drawn at night and on extremely cold days. Air the house only at mid-day and turn the thermostat down. Keep fireplace flues closed when not in use.

Grease Interceptor Needed for Sink

A grease interceptor is required to prevent the automatic dishwasher or kitchen sink from clogging. The device can be placed under the sink or farther along in the drainage system, but should be accessible for occasional cleaning.

Modern grease interceptors have baffles and channels that force the grease to the top and keep it out of the waste pipes. Grease-free water, still carrying other wastes, flows across the bottom of the device and out through the waste pipes.

Bits of Stone On Roof Top

Mineral granules—hard, opaque bits of stone—are used as a surfacing material for asphalt shingles, America's most widely used home roofing.

The granules are embedded under pressure on the surface of the shingles during manufacture.

Granules are used because they increase the natural fire-resistance of the shingles, permit manufacture of shingles in a wide range of colors and provide an excellent wearing surface.

Granules are colored by "firing" pigments into them. This is a ceramic process. In producing blended color shingles, granules of two or more colors are mixed before they are applied to the roofing.

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