

REMODELING TIPS

AUTUMN 2009

Bathroom Design Trends 2009

Photo: Courtesy of Moore (www.moore.com)

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MEASURING YOUR cookprint

Have you heard the latest kitchen buzzword: “cookprint”? Similar to the idea of measuring one’s carbon footprint, cookprint is defined as the energy needed to prepare and store the food you eat—with the aim of reducing the energy expended. You may be surprised to learn that although the major cooking appliances in the kitchen—such as the cooktop, range and oven—can give off a tremendous amount of heat while in use, they aren’t the biggest energy guzzlers in a kitchen. Believe it or not, that prize goes to the refrigerator, which has the dubious distinction of using more electricity than home heating, water heating or lighting.

The energy used for cooking represents approximately 5% of your total home energy bill, mostly because cooking is not a 24/7 activity. Therefore, owning an energy efficient cooking appliance won’t make much of a dent in your energy bill. Additionally, if saving money remains your top

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Gaggenau’s Fusion Oven (top) combines convection and microwave technologies.



Photo: Courtesy of Gaggenau (www.gaggenau-usa.com)

FYI:



D & D Scarborough, Inc. was not included in the historic bailout package passed by Congress—and for good reason. We did not cause it or ever contribute to it.

Since 1976, we have weathered several recessions (some very deep, like the one in 1991—The Gulf War), and we are weathering this one, also.

Yes, today’s economy is tough, but tough economies are nothing new. Small business owners make up over ninety percent of all American businesses. We believe that puts them in control of their own destinies. They are very much like you—facing challenges and striving to make wise decisions.

We understand that making financial decisions today may be causing you some stress and anxiety, so we would like to offer food for thought. In a confusing time the voice of reason would say, “Making an investment in some low-risk areas of your home makes good sense—it’s far more practical than investing in the stock market!” Updating your kitchen or bath is an investment that gives you pleasure now, as well as in the future.

Through tough times and good times, D & D Scarborough, Inc. will continue to provide quality products and workmanship to our current and future customers who appreciate a job well done.

Bathroom Design Trends 2009

If the kitchen is the heart of the home—the bathroom is its soul. It's the place where you ready your mind and body to seize the day. It's also the place to which you retreat in the evening to relax and sooth away stress.

These emotional needs have not diminished with the uncertain economy; if anything they have heightened. And as homeowners have decided to forego luxury vacations and spend more time at home, the need for the bathroom sanctuary at home has only increased. The following trends in bathroom design for 2009, as evidenced by the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS), take all this and more into account.

• Green plumbing fixtures galore

Homeowners are interested in being green, especially because they realize it can save them money. They can enjoy the immediate benefits of lower water bills when they install WaterSense qualified faucets, showerheads and toilets. Energy-efficient lighting, motion sensors, on-demand water heaters, and ventilation fans that automatically cycle on and off—these are all items that will provide savings on gas and electricity.

• Eco-friendly materials on the rise

A wide variety of sustainable materials is now available for use in bathrooms. Solid surface materials are created from recycled glass bottles, porcelain fixtures, marble dust, waste paper and more. Bamboo and cork, along with other more unusual materials, are increasingly used on walls, floors and vanities. Prices for recycled materials are dropping as demand is increasing.

• New products provide glitz and glamour

Add drama to your bathroom with some sensational new products that were showcased throughout KBIS. New antique gold and brushed gold fixture finishes, curvaceous faucets with crystal knobs, as well as shiny black tubs and toilets help bring the look together.



Photo: Courtesy of Hansgrohe (www.hansgrohe-usa.com)

• Universal design principles influence products

As multi-generational families increase and people are living longer, the desire is for beautiful bathrooms that are also convenient for all ages and health considerations. Showers with low thresholds, hand-held showerheads and interior benches are becoming more popular as people realize a few adjustments can provide accessibility for everyone. Elegant lever-handled faucets, stylish grab bars and comfort-height toilets provide bathroom safety without calling attention to it.

• Hi-tech features add excitement

Technology is continually putting a new, exciting slant on the bathing experience. LED lights in the shower offer the health benefits of chromatherapy. Controls allow bathers to pre-set their own water temperature and spray intensity preferences. Radiant heat technology warms the interior surface of bathtubs. Acoustic transducers built into the bathtub cause it to reverberate with the sounds of music. Touchless faucets are activated by sensors that eliminate the need to either touch the fixture or wave the hands.

• Creating a spa at home

The bathroom as a restorative spa retreat continues to be a big theme. Muted lighting, tranquil music, murmuring water, pleasant aromas, and harmonious interiors all assist in creating a serene ambience. Natural elements—such as stone, metal, glass, wood, bamboo and concrete— along with simple, horizontal lines provide a relaxing visual environment.



Happy Healthy HEATING

Did you know that fuzzy throw rugs on bathroom floors have been known to cause serious injuries when people accidentally tripped on them? If the thought of placing your bare feet directly on the cold tile floor makes you cringe, you should consider installing radiant underfloor heating.

Heat radiating up from beneath the floor warms the other objects in a room, which in turn begin to radiate heat as well. This provides a pleasant, even heat that is also very quiet and healthy. Unlike forced-air heating, there are no noisy fans creating drafts and blowing allergen-laden dust about. In addition, underfloor heating doesn't require vents or radiators and therefore provides a cleaner aesthetic in a room.

One of the most effective flooring materials to use with radiant floor heating is ceramic tile, due to its ability to conduct as well as store heat. Almost any other flooring may be used, but performance varies.



Photo: Courtesy of NuHeat (www.nuheat.com)

There are two main underfloor heating systems used today. The hydronic system uses loops of flexible plastic tubing installed under the floor to circulate hot water from a boiler or hot water heater. The boiler can be powered by gas, oil, electric, solar or geothermal energy. This system can be more expensive to install than forced-air, but once in place it can be up to 30% more energy efficient because no energy is lost through ducts.

An electric radiant system uses loops of electric wires that are installed just below the flooring material. For ease of installation, manufacturers often sew the wires to a mesh backing that holds them in place. Generally used for heating smaller areas—such as bathrooms, sunrooms and kitchens—an electric system works well for retrofit projects.

Either type of floor heating system can be controlled by programmable thermostats with setback features to ensure that the floor is being heated only when the room is being used—thereby saving energy.



Photo: Courtesy of Warmly Yours (www.warmlyyours.com)

The WarmlyYours TempZone system is used under tile, stone and hardwood floor coverings.

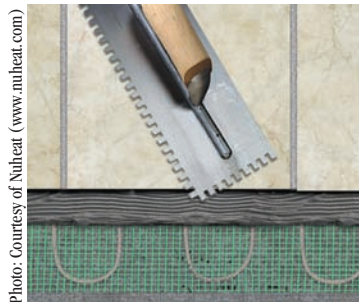


Photo: Courtesy of NuHeat (www.nuheat.com)

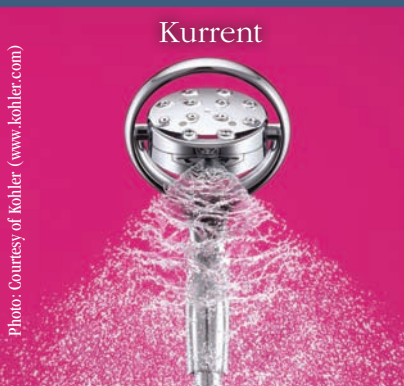
A tile installer bonds a NuHeat heating mat to the subfloor with thinset before laying the tile.

You'll ELIP Over This!

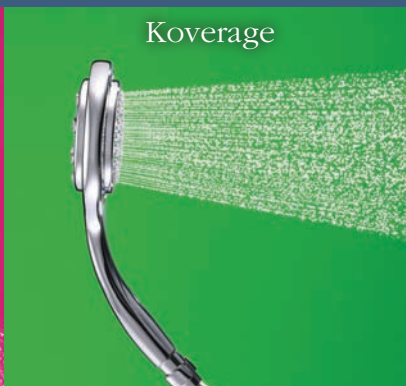
Handshowers are all the rage right now, as people have discovered how conveniently they extend to hard-to-reach areas. At the 2009 Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS) Kohler introduced an innovative and fun handshower with a sprayface that rotates on its axis. Each of the four sides of the sprayface is dedicated to a different spray mode, and in each mode the range of

movement allows users to easily angle the water stream to suit their particular requirements. These features make the Flipside handshower well suited for users of all ages and even those with limited hand mobility.

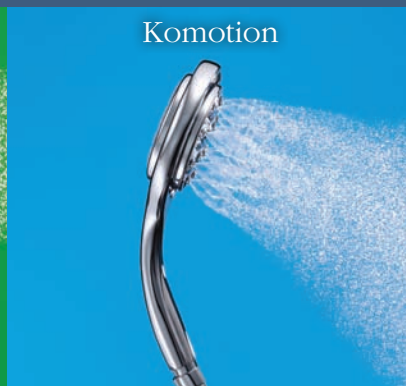
The handshower is available in three designs and two finish options: polished chrome and brushed nickel.



Kurrent



Koverage



Komotion



Kotton

Photo: Courtesy of Kohler (www.kohler.com)

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For Your Information

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Happy Healthy Heating

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MEASURING YOUR cookprint

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priority, gas cooktops on the whole are the least expensive to operate because gas continues to be cheaper than electricity.

That being said, it is still worthwhile to consider the energy efficiency of cooking appliances with the intention of living responsibly in our environment. Recent testing has shown that gas cooktops are only 50% efficient—one half of the energy put out by a gas burner heats up the pot, the rest heats up the kitchen. An electric coil burner is 60% efficient. Induction cooktops, on the other hand, produce a 90% efficiency, which is one of the reasons induction cooktops are creating quite a stir these days.

An induction cooktop uses electricity to generate a magnetic field. This causes the steel or iron-based pot itself to heat up, while the cooktop surface stays cool to the touch. The energy is therefore transferred directly to the food in the pot, not into the surrounding air. Food heats up very quickly, which saves time and energy. Induction cooking is far



GE's new Profile free-standing range with induction cooking.

less expensive than cooking on an electric coil burner, but the appliance itself will cost considerably more.

When it comes to the oven, convection ovens distribute heat more evenly than ordinary ovens, so cooking time and cooking temperatures can be reduced, cutting energy use by about a third. A self-cleaning oven is better insulated, and so will be more efficient. Even more savings are provided by using a microwave whenever possible. Small appliances, such as a microwave, a toaster oven and a crock pot, are more energy efficient than a large oven or range for cooking smaller meals.



Viking's Professional electric induction range has a commercial look and feel.

Photo: Courtesy of GE Consumer & Industrial (www.ge.com)

Photo: Courtesy of Viking Range Corp. (www.vikingrange.com)