

# Crafty kitchens



It is possible to change the look of your kitchen without spending a fortune, says **Jackie Sears**

**G**etting a designer look at a good price, whether selling, renting, or staying put, is all to do with visual coherence.

Streamline your decision-making by being clear from the outset about your budget, your ideal way of using the kitchen, and your accent colour.

Starting with broad areas - worktops, walls, ceilings, lighting, equipment, cupboards, prioritise the areas most in need of attention

then subdivide your budget accordingly.

A new look is emerging from today's economic conditions - we'll be seeing more eclectic, quirky styling in interiors, with effusive use of pattern, texture and layering.

The key to getting this look right is in knowing which colours to put together and in which proportions.

Choose a range of shades of your accent colour and lift these with one opposite colour,

**“Prioritise the areas that are most in need of attention”**

(Right): Having a simple colour scheme can work wonder, as with this kitchen  
 (Below right): Open cupboards are great for getting that layered effect

plums with pale green for example.

Build up a layered effect by placing objects on open shelves, in glass cupboards, on walls and windowsills. There must be colour, shape and pattern relationships though, otherwise it will look cluttered.

If replacing your flooring, do install underfloor heating if possible. Not only will it definitely boost your EPC rating, when you come to sell, it will reduce fuel bills in the meantime. Flooring materials represent a great opportunity for pulling a look together, and new products are constantly evolving - Emctiles have just launched a new range of porcelain tiles that look exactly like wooden floorboards.

Apparent flooring area is reduced by changes in material so combining wood with tile for example, can subtly define different areas of use in a large area where space shrinkage is not a concern.

Replacement cupboard doors provide an instant update but the position of the hinges on the new and old doors must be identical to avoid drilling-out and filling-in. If you must resort to this, do the work on the carcass, rather than on the new door. Where the



sides of the existing carcasses are visible, consider replacing the whole of that unit. In true austerity-chic style, mix and match some wood, some colour and some glass, but keep the aesthetic under control with good colour-discipline.

Next you'll need new door handles - [www.thedoorknobshop.com](http://www.thedoorknobshop.com) supply a delicious variety of shapes in coloured lacquer. Mix these with metals to build coherence into the new look.

Give the units a quick lift by fitting downlit LEDs under plinths or wall mounted cupboards and amplify their effect by choosing reflective materials on adjacent surfaces. [www.ecokitchenonline.com](http://www.ecokitchenonline.com) do a great stainless steel down-lit backsplash, as well as pure white worktops made from recycled yogurt pots - stylish and eco-friendly! 🌱

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 Tel: 01326 211843

Ashgrove Kitchens  
[www.ashgrovekitchens.co.uk](http://www.ashgrovekitchens.co.uk)  
 Tel: 01363 773533

Dream Doors  
[www.dreamdoorsltd.co.uk](http://www.dreamdoorsltd.co.uk)  
 Tel: 01392 666066

**“Replacement cupboards provide an instant update”**

