Shortcuts To A 'Brand New' Kitchen

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Danny Lipford demonstrates kitchen improvements. (CBS/The Early Show)

Sinks And Faucets

In order to replace the countertops, the sink and faucet have to be removed as well, so it’s a great opportunity to replace these for a new look. When choosing a sink, options include stainless steel, porcelain-over-cast iron, solid surfacing, and quartz. Sinks are configured in one-, two-, and three-bowl models in varying sizes and depths.

A new faucet will also add some gleam. New finishes have come on the market, as well as new configurations, including pull-out, wall-mounted, and high arching.

Making Cabinets Look New

The cheapest way to spruce up wood cabinets is with a fresh coat of paint. Use top-grade primer and paint and be careful about technique. Follow the suggestions below.

Painting Cabinets:

1. Scrub doors, drawers, and frames with detergent and a damp rag to remove years of grime

2. Wipe them with down with alcohol and a clean rag to remove any grease

3. Use a random orbit sander or a sanding block and 220-grit sandpaper to uniformly prepare the existing finish

4. Use a tack rag to remove all traces of dust

5. Apply a thin, uniform coat of primer compatible in color and formulation with your paint

Danny Lipford

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/03/08/earlyshow/living/home/main13...
Stir an additive into your paint to improve its flow. Ask your paint dealer which type is best with the paint you have chosen. It will help to prevent brush marks. Use an enamel paint that will dry hard and stand up to scrubbing.

Apply the first top coat using a professional paint brush (nylon bristle for water-base paints and china bristle or natural bristle for solvent-based paints) and long, even strokes. Try for a thin, even coat.

Sand lightly between coats for a smooth finish, using a tack rag before applying a second coat.

Apply the final top coat for a smooth, even, durable finish.

Wood Cabinets

If you prefer to replace your wood cabinets rather than paint them, expect to do a little more work. It will start with removing the doors and drawer fronts and replacing them with the style and finish of your choice. You can order these from local cabinet shops or national manufacturers, which can be found online.

Once your doors and drawer fronts arrive, you will need to stain the exteriors to match, following the instructions below.

Staining cabinets:

Use a random orbit sander or sanding block and 150–grit sandpaper to gently take off most of the existing finish. As you get below the lacquer coating, be careful not to take much wood.

Now switch to 220-grit sandpaper and get the wood to look as uniform in color as possible. Don’t be concerned if all the stain isn’t completely removed.

Next, mix an interior wood stain with a satin polyurethane varnish finish in a separate container. If the color isn’t dark enough after the first coat, mix the stain in a bit more heavily for the second coat.

For a smooth finish, sand lightly with 220-grit sandpaper in-between coats and use a tack rag to get every bit of dust from the surface.

Final Touches

Replace all hardware, including door and drawer knobs or pulls, and even hinges. Lipford suggests trying something whimsical or distinctive, but make sure it is comfortable to use.