



Luxury Features Desired in Kitchens

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*Friendly Reminder:
Check Your
Furnace*

It's time! Make sure your furnace has been inspected and maintained by a certified HVAC Technician!

Keep your furnace running smoothly.

Technicians inspect parts, replace any that have worn out, lubricate parts, check all electrical wiring, and so on. You wouldn't put off the tune-up for your car. Think of this as a tune-up for your furnace.

Improve efficiency.

To heat a home properly a furnace pulls air through a filter. In time, the filter can become clogged with airborne particles, making the furnace work harder to move air through it. The furnace's efficiency decreases, shortening its life and increasing your heating bill. But the filter is only one example. A furnace contains many other delicate parts that should be inspected and touched by a qualified HVAC contractor.

Protect your health and that of your family.

Neglected, dirty filters can release mold spores and other toxic airborne particles into your home, causing respiratory problems and disease. A well-maintained system keeps the air clean and helps prevent such problems from occurring.

Keep your furnace working reliably.

While there is no such thing as an absolute guarantee, an annual inspection, and maintenance of your furnace allows the technician to spot problems that may be small now, but that could become severe if left untreated.

Regulate the temperature in your home.

Technicians verify and calibrate the furnace's thermostat to make sure that the furnace heats your home correctly and reliably.

Save lives.

As part of normal operation, furnaces release carbon monoxide in their exhaust. When the furnace is working properly, carbon monoxide is channeled out of the home through an exhaust pipe. But leaks happen, and a carbon monoxide leak is dangerous because that particular gas is odorless and deadly. A licensed professional will test the furnace for leaks as part of routine maintenance.

Our Preferred Alliance Provider, W.W. Fairbairn and Sons, would be our recommendation to service your furnace this winter. They can be reached at 231.548.2244.



Luxury Features Desired in Kitchens

It is an exciting time to be planning your next kitchen remodeling project! More than ever, designers and manufacturers are getting highly creative as they focus on new ways to make kitchens into everyone's favorite spot in the home. Each family has its individual wants and needs for their kitchen—and today these numerous desires can be met, as incredible as it may seem. From organizational systems, to smart technology, to accessibility—these luxury features are all here and now.

What are some of the luxury features that are in demand by homeowners today? The most recent American Institute of Architects (AIA) Home Design Trends Survey indicates that the desire to entertain friends and family at home is continuing to grow. To help those get-togethers flow smoothly and effortlessly, homeowners are requesting butler pantries, double islands, undercounter appliances, and wine refrigeration and storage options. These items make it possible for several people to be at work in the kitchen at the same time without getting in each other's way—so the homeowner can happily take advantage of offers to help. Depending on their placement, these items may also permit guests to serve themselves, which allows the homeowner to relax as well.

The captivating appeal of new technology and energy-efficiency is behind the mounting demand for induction cooking appliances, device recharging stations, drinking water filtration systems and



Photos: Courtesy of True (www.true-residential.com)

smart appliances. New smart appliances are being introduced on a continual basis, with the promise of providing more convenience and safety in the home.

The passion for adaptability/universal design is rising as increasing numbers of boomers are choosing to age-in-place. Cabinet pull-outs and pull-downs, variable height countertops, and sensor faucets all contribute to accessibility—and these are luxury features that have been showing increased interest since last year. Wider doorways and aisles, plus layered lighting schemes greatly benefit the homeowner as well.

Be sure to consider which of these luxury features you would like included in your kitchen—before you begin your remodeling project. There are so many options, but certain ones are just right for you.





Durat surfaces are made from 100% recycled, post-industrial plastics. This unique material can be used to create countertops, desks, tables, integrated sinks, bathtubs, shower trays and stools.



UNIQUE SURFACES

IceStone surfaces are made from 100% recycled glass and cement. These surfaces are ideal for countertops, back splashes, bathrooms, tabletops, bar tops, fireplace surrounds, conference tables, and reception areas.



Photos: Courtesy of Modern Surfaces (www.modern-surfaces.com)

PaperStone is made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper and a proprietary, petroleum-free resin. PaperStone is recommended for residential kitchen and bath and commercial uses.

Sustainability, with its several principles, is one of the strongest emerging trends in kitchen and bath design today. For example, as a homeowner you may be particularly concerned about healthy home design that promotes well-being for yourself and your family. In addition, energy and water efficiency has most likely become very important to you because it lowers your utility bills.

Still, there are other facets of sustainability that are now coming to the forefront in kitchen and bath design, one of which is

recycling. Each week you place all your old newspapers, glass bottles and aluminum cans in a recycling bin that is regularly picked up curbside. Perhaps you simply think of it as an effortless way to get rid of your trash. But did you know these kinds of items are currently being recycled into attractive new products for the kitchen and bath?

Several manufacturers who passionately believe in sustainability are presently using both consumer and manufacturing waste materials to create beautiful, responsible surfacing materials for the kitchen and bath.

Three of these brands recently partnered together to make their products easily available to homeowners like yourself who are looking for better alternatives to granite and quartz surfaces. Made up of sustainable surfacing brands Durat, IceStone and PaperStone, along with distributors CaraGreen and Cerami Inc., the new company, Modern Surfaces, is driven to create beauty and utility out of waste. Its goal is to positively impact the environment and improve our lives now and in the future.

Control Your Faucet

While you are preparing meals in your kitchen, it goes without saying that your hands will become messy. Of course, you do not want to spread germs by touching your kitchen faucet. There are many different ways to activate a faucet these days without actually touching it, and it is a good idea to carefully consider each one before you make your purchase.

Motion sensor (or Touchless) faucets allow water to flow when motion is detected. You do not have to touch the faucet with messy hands. This feature can help save water, since it will automatically turn off the water when there is no motion.

Touch-sensitive (or Touch-On) faucets will activate with a simple tap anywhere on the faucet. You could use your wrist or elbow, when your hands are messy. This is a much less expensive option than a motion sensor faucet.

FootControl faucets by GROHE are a new option designed for situations when you simply cannot get your hands in a position to turn on the faucet—either by motion or touch—such as when you are holding a heavy pot of water with both hands. A FootControl sensor mounted to the underside of your cabinet connects to a control box that sits inside your cabinetry. Gently tap the sensor with your foot to turn the water on and off. When you do not need to use the foot control, the faucet will still function like a standard kitchen faucet.



Photo: Courtesy of GROHE (www.grohe.us/en_US)



Photo: Courtesy of Brizo (www.brizo.com)



Photo: Courtesy of Moen (www.moen.com)



Check Your Furnace

Exterior Remodel

Luxury Features in Kitchens

Unique Surfaces



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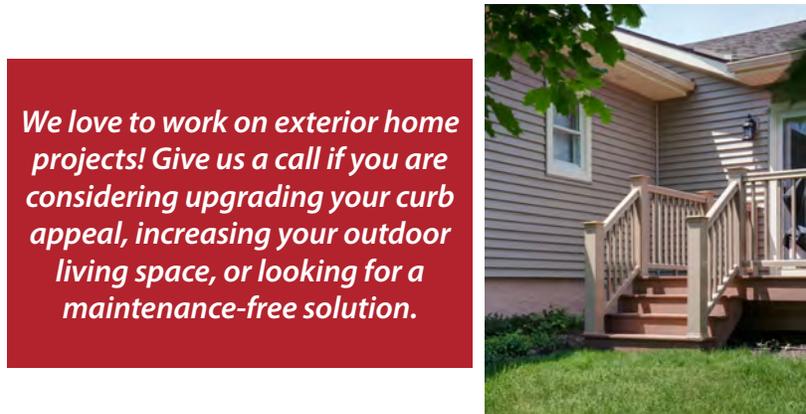
An Exterior Remodel for Low Maintenance Curb Appeal

When you've spent your entire career in the building trades industry, you have inevitably worked alongside a company that does business just the way you would like them to if they were working on your own home. For Jeff Ermler, an electrician by trade, this was just the case with McBride Construction, Inc. "Through the years I have had the pleasure of working with multiple members of the McBride team; Tom Beyer, George Bommarito, Mike Stolt and others. I know that they are all craftsmen and that was what we wanted from the team that would work on our home."

For the past 25 years, Jeff has had to work hard to keep up with the high-maintenance, log-sided exterior of his home. Knowing that in retirement they had better plans than maintaining the siding, Jeff and his wife, Sue, hired McBride Construction to replace their siding, front porch and back deck. Today their exterior is much lower maintenance, and the Ermlers have more time to enjoy their well-deserved retirement.

"Everything was taken care of during the project. We didn't have to worry about anything, and the result is that it's just the way we wanted. Our Lead Carpenter, Shaun Verville, and the entire McBride crew went above and beyond," said Jeff Ermler.

At McBride Construction, Inc. we are so pleased with the Ermlers new exterior! More importantly, though, we are thrilled that they are happy with the outcome.



We love to work on exterior home projects! Give us a call if you are considering upgrading your curb appeal, increasing your outdoor living space, or looking for a maintenance-free solution.