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4 Remodeling Trends in 2013

The question of buying a new home or renovating a current one isn't new--most homeowners face it at one time or another. In an economic recession, more people opt for the more practical and cost-effective solution: renovating a current house. Right now, there are leading renovation trends for every room of the house, and using the correct materials and tools will make you stand out as a contractor to families looking to remodel. Here we present 4 of the most popular trends in 2013 in the world of home remodeling:

1. Bathroom Renovation: Out with linoleum - In with tile (and subfloor)

According to the DIY Network, the days of the neutral color bathroom are over. It was long thought that eggshell white walls and beige accents evoked a safe and sanitary feeling in the commode, and linoleum floors served to accent this squeaky-clean feel. Those days are gone. Home designers are creating bathrooms with color--some are vibrant, some more muted, but the palette has gone beyond off-white and cream.

In the past few years, the trend of adding ceramic tiles to the bathroom floor has seen an upswing in home remodeling. Tile can add that colorful look, while still being sleek. The Home and Garden Network has profiled several successful bathroom renovations, and all involved bold use of tile. Bathroom floors are now places of "rich color" and "warm designs," and homeowners often think their work is done after they decide on the color scheme of a bathroom. (Contractors know that the work is just beginning!)

Many homeowners cannot foresee the work ahead, or guess the importance of a clean, functional subfloor to the change they want in their bathroom design. Contractors are increasingly receiving requests for the removal of linoleum bathroom floors in remodeling jobs. They must then clean and repair the subfloor for whatever finish lies ahead. Bathrooms see higher moisture levels than other rooms in the house; for this reason alone, nails are not practical to use when working on a bathroom subfloor. And so, a well-installed subfloor never goes out of style.



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2. Kitchen Improvement: The Return to Wood Floors

When it comes to the kitchen, contractors are seeing more requests for installing or refinishing hardwood floors. One hot trend today in home design is the demand for "exotic" woods in flooring. Renovators bring in materials from all points on the globe: Tazmanian oak wood and Brazilian cherry wood are increasingly in demand for kitchen floors.

These imported materials are an investment, and need to be installed properly so that they last for years. Brazilian cherry wood is gaining popularity for its warm color, which deepens with age. When homeowners install this floor, they want years of use out of it. This increases pressure on contractors to get the job done perfectly during installation.

Once again, the subfloor in this room is of the utmost importance. Create the perfect subfloor once and for all, and prevent squeaks for years.

Giving face-lifts to cabinets, tables, or other furniture can breathe new life into a kitchen; but all of these projects require the proper fasteners for the job to be done right. Furniture must support weight, so screws should be drilled into the wood as firmly and deeply as possible. All of the materials and tools used on a renovation project in the kitchen are important--right down to the fasteners selected.

3. Flooring Improvements throughout the rest of the house

In an ideal remodeling project, a home feels familiar to its owners, yet improved and more functional. Style and function are given equal weight by homeowners and home designers alike, not just in the kitchen and bathroom.

HGTV reports that bamboo is a popular look in flooring throughout the house; it brings a sophisticated look to a room, but it's also a hard and durable material. Cork is another flooring material that is witnessing an increase in demand – even designers report that it is more comfortable to walk on. Vinyl flooring is also making a come-back, in a reinvented form that looks great but costs a consumer less--a great selling point during a recession. We can't ignore carpet, either. In a family home, this soft, forgiving surface is ideal for kids to run around on.



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4. Deck Remodeling: Let's not forget the great outdoors

One recent push in home design is to make a deck or patio more comfortable for the whole family, and more like an extension of a comfy house--especially if the home is small. One outdoor space, profiled on HGTV, improved the look of the entire house by adding a sunken deck and a container garden.

Decks today are designed to be inviting, homey and comfortable. They are now designed to be outdoor extensions of indoor home design, where "connectivity" between indoor and outdoor design is the ultimate goal.

Fixing up an existing deck or installing a completely new one can be tough work, but the right fasteners can make the work less harrowing.

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