

THE LITTLE THINGS



By Brian E. Coleman

Let's talk about the little things in your home. People always say it's the little things that matter the most. Well, in the kitchen, it IS the little things that can make all the difference. Take for instance the backsplash. There are so many choices in tiles, colors, textures, finishes, and patterns—even painted textured wallpaper or tinplate. Though the backsplash can sometimes be overlooked, this area can bring so much life and movement into the kitchen. It keeps your eyes moving around the room in much the same way that wainscoting or shadow boxing does in dining rooms. The backsplash is a great canvas to work with in coordinating some or all the colors that tie the room together—the possibilities are endless!

Next, let's talk about lighting—specifically, under-cabinet lighting. This is another little addition that is sometimes overlooked. This lighting illuminates your countertop area in front or on the preparation surface without being shadowed from above or behind by recessed ceiling or other room lighting. As a result, your prep area is cleanly lit. With the advent of dimmer switches, this lightning can now be changed to set the

mood for the entire kitchen: brightly lit for preparation or cleaning or dimmed to calm the room for the enjoyment of the meal itself. Also, when all the other lights are turned off, this under-cabinet lighting can be used at various levels to change the look of the room. Adding dimmers to all the other lighting in the room lets you choose a number of new looks. Now, let's talk about bathroom lighting. Dimmer switches are often the least-thought-of aspect incorporated into a bathroom. With all the different light features added to baths these days—wall, recessed, accent, or chandelier—each separate light fixture should be on a dimmer. That way, the bathroom can take on its own personality. Studies say that we should not be exposed to bright light a few hours before we go to bed at night. Adding dimmers enables you to enter the bath in the middle of the night without being blinded by a bright non-dimmable light and then to get back to sleep more easily.

Lastly, let's talk about little things in your laundry room. Laundry rooms used to be hidden in the basement as if they were the eyesore of the house. With all the new technology and cleanliness in styling, you can now make it a clean room with some neat features. It's not Grandma's barrel wringer washboard unit any more. With the right setup and design, the laundry room becomes an area that is open, functional, and decorated just like the rest of the home. Now it's not so unattractive. By adding cabinetry, the usual eyesores can be stored away or put up on shelving and out of the way.

These are just a few tips on the little things that can make your home more appealing and functional. Give us a call and let us handle the big things and the little things too.



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