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CARPINO REPORT

BRING BEAUTY INTO YOUR HOME

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Remodeling Relief

*12 ways to save money
 on remodeling,
 without sacrificing style
 or quality.*

1. Hire an architect or designer for a big project.
2. Follow a budget.
3. Do your own demolition.
4. Leave major mechanicals where they are.
5. Consider the big picture.
6. Remember installation.
7. Replace only what needs replacing.
8. Buy your own materials.
9. Search for look-alikes.
10. Buy white appliances.
11. Do your own finish work.
12. Use paint instead of wallpaper.

On The Surface—Kitchen Flooring

Here's the second of a three-part series on choosing kitchen surfaces. The next issue will feature back-splash choices.

MATERIAL	PRICE*\$S.F.	DURABILITY	STYLE NOTES
Hardwood	\$5 to \$11	Prone to scratches and dents. Unless coated with a water-resistant sealant, liquid spills should be wiped immediately.	Hardwood is still seen as luxurious with high resale value. Narrow planks are more formal and wider ones are more rustic. Oak is most durable option.
Laminate	\$1 to \$7	High quality high-density plastic is dent and scratch resistant and good at resisting moisture.	Higher priced options look like real hardwood, while cheaper varieties can appear and sound synthetic. Like hardwood, a variety of choices for plank width; lots of color and grain choices.
Engineered Hardwood	\$5 to \$8	Typically has 1/8" wood surface over softwood and laminate. Vulnerable to scratches, dents and water stains but slightly more resilient than hardwood. Can be laid over concrete with thin moisture or sound barrier underneath.	Looks like hardwood but uses up to 80% less wood. Good in condos because of its soundproof ability. Like hardwood, a variety of choices for plank width, tone and grain.
Ceramic	\$3 to \$8	Clay fired at a lower temperature than porcelain, making it more able to crack. Body is a different color than surface so chips are more noticeable.	Huge selection of colors, sizes, and shapes for endless design ideas.
Porcelain	\$3 to \$12	High-end porcelain tiles can handle anything.	Matte designs allow for the feeling of natural stone without the risk of stains. Available in a wide range of colors, shapes, and sizes.
Natural Stone	\$7 to \$20	Should be sealed yearly to prevent stains. Granite tends to be hardest and most crack resistant. Slate is softer but its mosaic colors mask stains. Some limestone is too porous for kitchens. Lighter colors can show stains.	Slate works well in cottages and rustic kitchens. Limestone and granite are more formal.
Linoleum	\$5 to \$6	Easy to clean and requires no waxing. Well-priced but labor intensive, therefore costly to install. Available in tiles and sheets. If damaged, tiles are easier to replace.	Often used in large commercial areas; minimal pattern choices but lots of colors. Has become more popular for use in laundry areas.