



How to spruce up your kitchen

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Shelling out \$40,000 for a full kitchen remodel would be great, but it might not be in the cards given recent economic affairs.

Still, there are creative ways to reinvent your kitchen in time for holiday gatherings or the winter doldrums.

Modernizing might mean adding one new high-tech appliance or incorporating eco-friendly materials into your kitchen. And if your budget's slimmer than your appetite, even a small appliance or innovative gadget can do the trick.

The point is making the most-used room in your home more convenient, efficient and comfortable.

Bamboo has made its way from woody, evergreen plant all the way to the kitchen as a renewable building resource. Cabinets and counters and even floors made from bamboo are becoming staples in kitchens, as are accessories. **Cutting boards**, such as the MIU France line (about \$50 to \$100), are some of the most popular kitchen accessories for their durability and looks.

GADGET

There are thousands of gadgets on the market that promise to be the "next best thing." Here's one that's innovative, fun and inexpensive: the Chef'n Switchit **spatula** (about \$12 on amazon.com). At first, the silicone gadget doesn't even look like a spatula, but that's the point. Its asymmetric design allows you to reach any angle in your bowl or pan. And we all know what that means: more brownie batter for you.

ALL-IN-ONE

So maybe your kitchen remodel budget is pretty much nonexistent. Well, there's nothing like a good cup of coffee to make it all better. And at about \$300, you can have a coffee pot with the latest technology that will impress your **coffee aficionado** friends. The Capresso Coffee Team Thermal Coffeemaker with Burr Grinder is a programmable machine that grinds whole beans, then brews the coffee. Plus, the built-in conical burr grinder is preferred to blade grinders by

hard-core coffee lovers (they say blade grinders have a tendency to heat up while grinding, changing the taste of the coffee).

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RANGE

The digital age has invaded the kitchen. And now you can find appliances that might be smarter than you are. Take for instance, the GE Profile Induction Cooktop (about \$2,500). Sure, it's pricey, but choosing one big item could be all you need to bring your kitchen up to snuff for all that holiday cooking. The **electric cooktop** uses an electromagnetic field to heat the cookware, so the uncovered cooktop surface remains cool to the touch. And it has a digital control system that creates precise temperatures. Now, if only it could cook for you.

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HARDWARE

This is by no means a new tip, but adding new knobs and handles to cabinets, doors and appliances is an always-affordable way to modernize the kitchen. Amerock's Westerly line of knobs and pulls has a classic look but with modern design. The finishes come in classic satin nickel or on-trend graphite. Knobs **and pulls** range from \$4 to \$6, while appliance pulls range from \$70 to \$125.

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Faucets 101

Modernizing the kitchen could be as simple as updating your faucet. New styles offer the latest design, but faucets also have come a long way in terms of technology. Here's an outline on the latest kitchen faucet features from the Home Depot. For more, visit tulsaworld.com/kitchenfaucets.

Anti-scald protection: Built in to keep people, especially children, from burning themselves.
Adjustable flow-rate restrictor: Lets you control exactly how much water flows from the faucet.

Scraper/brush/spray combo: Helps make dishwashing chores a snap.

Pot-filler faucet: Mounted over the stove, a pot-filler faucet allows you to fill big, heavy pots on the stove rather than having to carry them back and forth across the kitchen after filling them at the sink.

Instant hot-or chilled water dispensers: If you have an extra sink hole to take advantage of, you may want to consider installing a faucet component that dispenses hot or chilled water for coffee, tea, soup and more.

Filtration: While most faucets require the addition of a separate filter, some feature a built-in unit that strains impurities such as dirt, rust and chemicals to provide higher quality water.

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