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Creating Your Dream Home

Kitchen Problems Solved

Getting Professional Results

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Kitchen Problems Solved

Building your kitchen seemed like it would be fun and easy, until you discovered that inconvenient, load-bearing beam, or how enormous the room felt when you knocked down that wall. Now you'll have to spend a fortune on custom cabinets to deal with these pesky problems, right?

Not always. According to kitchen designers, many of these problems can be solved with a little creativity and stock or semi-custom cabinetry. "Most people think the best kitchen is the one with the most embellishments or expensive products. But that's not what makes a kitchen beautiful or easy to use," says Andy Wells, vice president of product design for Decora Cabinets, a line of semi-custom cabinets that are made in Jasper, Ind., and sold through a network of 1,000 dealers nationwide.

The winners of this year's "Design with Decora" contest, taken from real kitchens created for clients by Decora's dealers, illustrates how smart design can solve some of the most common problems kitchen builders and remodelers face.

Problem #1: Lots of space and high ceilings.

While large kitchens have all the space you'll ever need, dividing it up into manageable portions is hard. "Fortunately, I had a client who believes in having only one focal point in the room, which in this case, is the limestone mantle hood we created over the range," says Neil Luck, of NHL Cabinets and Design in Long Beach, Calif., who won the "best kitchen in the nation" award from Decora for this expansive but well-balanced kitchen.

Luck used several strategies, including creating a separate butler's pantry off the main kitchen space, containing a second dishwasher, a second large copper farmhouse sink, copper countertops, a wine chiller, pantry and cabinets which served as a built-in display area for the client's extensive collection of crystal, china and antique linens. He kept most of the cabinets below countertop level to create open spaces with a clear sightline to the adjoining living room, he says. The very large, 72-inch refrigerator was covered with matching wood panels to tone down its impact. Triple-stack crown molding with black accents joined the cabinets to the high ceiling. The understated kitchen island with a black finish provided an important visual break, too.

Problem #2: No room for an island, and short on storage space.

What do you do when you really want an island with seating, and the floor plan doesn't allow it? In the case of this kitchen in Bloomington, Minn., named "best kitchen in the Midwest," Decora designer Tracy Foslien had a unique solution -- create a thin, asymmetrical island that juts the seating area just past the rest of the cabinets.

"My client wanted lots of detail in the cabinetry, so everywhere we could, we added embellishments like columns, corbels and extra molding to make it look more like free standing furniture," says Foslein, of Home Valu Interiors in Bloomington. Foslein used an eggshell finish to unify all the cabinetry combined with toile wallpaper in a cheerful cobalt blue and white. The tight proportions of the room were offset by the varying heights of the upper cabinets.



"But the most impressive part of this kitchen is the sheer variety of materials that were used in the wall separating the living room from the kitchen. It was an archway, buffet, china cabinet and curio all in one," says Mary Jo Petersen, a judge of the contest who is also a kitchen designer, educator and commentator for "Kitchen Design News."

Problem #3: A very small kitchen space that is also a default entryway and dining room.

With a floor plan that was doubling from just 100 square feet to over 200, this kitchen in Tavernier, Fla., "named Best Kitchen in the South," presented quite a challenge for kitchen designer Kathy Ferguson at Palen cabinets in nearby Islamorada.

"It is the first room visible when you enter the home, so it needed to be a show-stopper," Ferguson says. Furthermore, Ferguson had to deal with an intrusive, load-bearing column, a ceiling beam, and a scarcity of available wall space. She addressed this challenge with a room divider of dark cherry cabinets that incorporated beams and columns, stocked with drawers for pots, pans and trays. The kitchen's island was designed with contrasting off-white cabinets, with pull out spice rack inserts, and fluted legs as embellishments. The design opens up into a dining area, where she added a bank of window seats made from Decora cabinets under a large run of windows.

"This design is very today, very modern," says Penny Chin, a contest judge, noted kitchen designer, and writer for many kitchen design publications. "We loved her use of materials ... the combination of the dark, contemporary cabinets with the unusual river rock backsplash and the granite counters. She used the flexibility of Decora's semi-custom system to make use of every square inch -- beautifully," she adds. ARAcontent

Driveways Can Be Decorative

One of the more subtle parts of a home that can lend an understated sense of elegance is the driveway. Though many might feel a driveway is a driveway, a number of different driveway materials exist that can make a home stand out among the rest.

For homeowners looking to either lay a new driveway in their brand-new home or replace an old driveway to give the exterior of their house a new look, the following materials are among the many that can now be used for the purpose of driveways.

- **Asphalt:** Asphalt driveways are the most common, thanks in large part to their cost effectiveness and minimal maintenance requirements. Due to that popularity, contractors can easily install an asphalt driveway.

A mixture of tar, gravel and concrete, asphalt attracts heat, making it very hot in warmer months, something parents of young children who frequently play outdoors might want to think about. Another disadvantage to asphalt driveways is that they're oil-based and as a result flexible, making them vulnerable to cracking.

- **Concrete.** Concrete is another very popular choice for driveways, and one that allows for more creativity than asphalt. Whereas asphalt driveways are limited to a blue or black hue, concrete driveways can be customized to almost any color you prefer. In addition, concrete driveways can feature stenciled designs, essentially making your driveway similar to an artist's canvas, albeit one that will require frequent sealing.

Though concrete driveways are tough and weather-resistant, they can stain rather easily and have traditionally proven difficult to clean. Such problems, however, might be worth it for those

who prefer a more individual driveway.

- **Gravel or pebble.** For those who enjoy driveways that remind them of historical times when horses pulled carriages up the driveways of estates, gravel or pebble is the choice for you. Among the more understated and elegant options, gravel or pebble driveways are also cost-effective and durable, in addition to requiring little maintenance.

One of the chief concerns when going with a gravel driveway is washout, where a heavy rainstorm could wash away all of a driveway's stones. This concern can be easily quelled, however, by edging in the driveway with scoria rock, bluestone or a hard timber that will keep the gravel or pebbles from washing away. A more legitimate concern is the potential for driveways to turn muddy, a common problem for gravel driveways containing clay.

- **Cobblestone or bluestone.** Though these materials are eco-friendly, they're not wallet-friendly. Along with that, they can be a handful to maintain, as they're prone to weeds and often require resealing. Another common problem is loose stones, which need to be replaced. While they can be problematic, they're among the more aesthetically appealing options, often looking exceptionally beautiful when set alongside a yard's natural landscape. Smaller driveways are good for these materials, as you'll spend less and you won't expend so much energy with maintenance.

- **Brick.** Brick driveways can be a sight for sore eyes. Those who have opted for brick driveways have traditionally found that their driveways have become a feature of their home. The downside, however, is cost, as brick driveways can be pricey to install, a large part of which is thanks to labor costs.



Countertop Trends: The Quartz Invasion

Photo Courtesy of Cuisines Denis Cou-
ture Montreal, Quebec

You've seen and felt it in homes across the country, in your local trendy coffee shops, in banks, high end restaurants, spas, salons and hotels. Quartz surfaces have been used in upscale homes around the world for more than 15 years but have more recently entered the North American market in grandiose fashion.

Thanks to increased manufacturer product development, quartz premium countertops are in high demand as a must-have in new and remodeled homes and businesses throughout the country.

"Quartz surfaces are experiencing incredible growth which is driven by the style, luxury and durability quartz delivers," explained Mark Hanna, President of Leeza Distribution Inc., distributor of HanStone Fine Quartz Surfaces.

According to the recent Freedonia Group Report on countertop industry trends, there has been a definite shift in the marketplace over the last few years as quartz has become the fastest growing market segment in the industry with 13 per cent growth compared to granite's five per cent.

Quartz has become the elegant answer for those who love the look of granite but are concerned about its drawbacks. Unlike granite, which can be permanently stained by cooking oils and grease, or etched by the acids in common household products, quartz is resistant to these stain hazards.

"Quartz surfaces are growing in popularity because they have the appearance of natural stone, but unlike granite, these surfaces never need to be sealed," Hanna said. "Quartz is a non-porous material, which means it will not promote the growth of mold, mildew or bacteria. This is why our HanStone surfaces are certified NSF 51 (with the National Sanitation Foundation)."

And while granite is subject to unpredictable variations in colour or pattern between slabs, making matching of sections of countertops difficult, quartz is an engineered stone which is consistent in colour pattern and texture.

Quartz (Silicon Dioxide) is the most common mineral on the earth's surface. It is present in nearly every geological environment and is a component of almost every rock type and exists in an impressive range of varieties of patterns and colours.

Quartz countertops are manufactured with up to 93 percent quartz and seven percent pigments and resins. This prescribed mixture results in a product that is non-porous, exceedingly durable, and more than twice as strong as granite.

The top rated quartz surface in the industry by designers, architects and developers alike is HanStone because it contains a higher quartz content than the norm and includes clear and multiple quartz colours bringing greater depth, dimension and style to its surfaces.

"HanStone is the ideal surface because it offers extraordinary beauty with twice the strength and durability of granite," explained Hanna. HanStone allows the design flexibility you need with 32 dramatic colours, vibrant patterns and a more luxurious sheen. It can be used in virtually any indoor surface application in kitchens and bathrooms, including floors, countertops, island tops and backsplashes.

Backed by a limited 10-year transferable warranty, the product promises greater strength and resilience with minimal maintenance. More information on fine quartz surfaces is available at leezadistribution.com N/C

What's the condition of your roof? The 5-point roof maintenance checklist

Your roof is a strategic component in your home's protective shell. A roof's longevity and its ability to remain waterproof will be increased if it is properly maintained. The following checklist can help you evaluate the condition of your roof in order to determine if it's time to consider a quick fix or a major overhaul.

1. Condition of the roof: Inspect the surface and list the required minor repairs. It may be necessary to add repair compound around any openings such as the chimney. Repair or replace aged or damaged shingles, remove moss and mildew and clean out the gutters.

2. The attic: If accessible, verify the following items:

3. Water tightness: An inspection of the attic is a good way to find potential sources of water leaks. Dark stained areas on wood are usually signs of water damage. The accumulation of ice in the lower areas of the roof may also cause water leakage.

4. Insulation: Formation of ice on lower areas of your roof is also a sign of poor insulation. Make sure your ceiling insulation is composed of a continuous vapour barrier and an insulating material. The vapour barrier must be airtight, and all holes for pipes and cables must be sealed. This prevents warm and humid air from going through to the attic and condensing just under the roof structure, during cold weather. Insulation material should provide an R-factor of 30 or more.

5. Ventilation: Appropriate ventilation and insulation of the attic allows the air to circulate under the roof. In winter, proper ventilation reduces the melting of snow and the resulting risk of ice accumulation on the lower portions of the roof. In summer, it makes the house more comfortable and limits the overheating of the shingles.

If your roof inspection uncovers problems and extensive wear, it may be neces-

sary to consider giving it a face-lift. On average, Canadian homeowners replace their roofing materials every 18 years at an average cost of \$4,500 per project, based on a standard 1,000 square foot bungalow roof.

A Canadian company, Techni-Seal, has created a simple, economical and environmentally friendly alternative to replacing roof shingles. The breakthrough product is called Elastomeric Roof Coating and you apply it like paint over your old asphalt shingle or sheet-metal roof with a roller or airless sprayer. It is guaranteed to extend the life of your roof for up to seven years because the UV-resistant barrier it forms between your roofing material and the elements stops deterioration.

For as little as \$700, you can regenerate your roof yourself and avoid the costly replacement of aging shingles and membranes. Your face-lift can be simple or dramatic since this coating is the only product of its kind that comes in a wide range of colours, including black, brown, green, grey, white and aluminum. N/C



How to Create Your Dream Home

A man and a woman are seen from behind, embracing in a lush green field. In the background, a large white outline of a two-story house is superimposed on the sky, suggesting a dream or a plan for a home. The sky is bright blue with light, wispy clouds.

Among the clipped lawns and traditional style homes of Green Bay, a cozy log home nestled in the woods is a rarity indeed. Equally rare are the steps the owners have taken to protect their original retreat.

On a hot summer morning, David and Kathy Janczak opened their Green Bay home to visitors who share their passion for log home living. "This is the first time we've hosted an open house since renovating our log home," said Kathy, in the lodge-like great room where the family of five shared meals, celebrated holidays and created hand-made Christmas ornaments.

Nearly 30 years ago, the young couple dreamt of a log home of their own. David, an avid woodworker who had been studying log home construction for some time, promised his new bride Kathy that he would build her a dream home as a wedding gift.

On a 20-acre parcel of land, David diligently set out to fulfill his promise, with Kathy working beside him every step of the way. Completed in 1976, the full log home was an intimate 1,547 square feet. The great room, which was the heart of the home, remains intact today.

Local excitement over their home and many requests prompted David to craft similar log homes for other enthusiasts. This, in turn, created Wisconsin Log Homes Inc., which David continues to oversee today. Both the home and company has grown significantly over the years, a testament to America's love affair with rustic homes and the simple, comfortable feeling they generate.

While the 60-plus people toured and explored their recently remodeled home, David and Kathy eagerly shared their experiences with both full log and half log construction. As the visitors marveled over the fine craftsmanship and attention to detail, David educated them on the basics of log homes and energy efficiency, including explaining why he developed the Thermal-Log insulated

half-log building system 30 years ago.

David says the spacious, yet unpretentious 5,600-square-foot hybrid home "Is a result of 30 years of ideas and experience in log home design and construction." Designed for entertaining as well as day-to-day living, the home showcases many progressive design elements, all while exuding traditional log home comfort and warmth.

The Janczak home was designed to be one with nature, both indoors and out. Strategically placed doors, windows and bump-outs maximize the surrounding view which includes a pond, wooded area and front water garden. A screen porch and wrap-around architecturally lit stamped concrete patio is the perfect place to relax during sunset at the end of a long day.

Indoors, the couple's love for natural materials is evident, incorporated into almost every design element. From the chocolate glazed ceramic tile on the floor to the handcrafted antler chandeliers, the space is saturated with various textures. David's trademark wormy wavy edge trim and custom gnarly railings give the log home a personal artistic touch not readily seen in the industry today.

The custom kitchen designed by Kathy and the company's in-house interior designer shows how a modern working kitchen can flow effortlessly into an open floor plan typical of log home design. Character cherry cabinets topped with custom crown molding, state-of-the-art appliances cleverly tucked behind cabinet panels and a hand-scraped engineered hickory floor warmed with radiant floor heat are some of the few places where technology meets style in the Janczak home. The raised cabinet at the end of the island has a painted furniture look to it, complete with authentic antler pulls.

As the visitors split up and meandered from room to room, they began to share their ideas and own design inspirations

with one another. Some were focused on the architectural elements while others eagerly discussed envisioned floor plans. "The trip to Green Bay was well worth it," one attendee noted. "This home gives us lots of ideas. The finished product shows much more than any catalog pictures."

Several visitors were fascinated with the Janczak's master bath which does not utilize a door. A strategically placed corner whirlpool tub with a mini-chandelier hanging above provides a spa-like view from the master bedroom. A partial wall separates the commode without closing in the space and a glass and tile walk-in shower is both functional and aesthetically pleasing. "This space was actually inspired by the Janczak's favorite Mexican retreat," Wisconsin Log Homes resident interior designer Stephanie Gauthier explained. "Beautiful design usually originates from things that we love. These are the elements that make your house a home and uniquely yours."

The groups were well rounded; some empty nesters, families, newlyweds and even a couple excited about planning a log-inspired bed and breakfast. "I love color and my husband loves structure," one wife commented in a boldly painted bedroom combined with a knotty pine ceiling and log accented walls. "I am so pleased to see that we can have both."

The Janczak's open house was a huge success and an inspiration to many. "We are planning another in the future for those who were unable to attend due to a limited number of reservations available," Kathy noted. "In the past we held design/build seminars at our headquarters, but seeing a completed home helps people better visualize what they can actually have." ARA

Rediscovering Wallpaper

by: Heather Larson

Throughout the 1990's painting was the trend for all rooms in a home. However, since the turn of the century, wallpaper has been making quite a comeback in popularity. Once again you are seeing it grace the walls of powder rooms, full bathrooms, dining rooms and kitchens. It is a nice trend to see. Rooms that accent the house with wallpaper add new dimension, interest and texture to an otherwise predictably painted environment. If you are in the design phase of home building project, you should give wallpaper some serious consideration. As with many home improvement products, more designs are available to the general public now than ever before.

Powder Room: One terrific place to use wallpaper as an accent in your home is the powder room. This usually small space

is perfect for making an impression on your guests. It is also a very limited way to reintroduce wallpaper into your life, but still be able to enjoy an interior design statement which makes your home unique. Don't be afraid to select dark or textured wallpapers for the powder room. Even though it is small, drama is what you are after here, or you would just be painting it the color of the rest of the house. Darkness and textures deliver drama.

Master Bath: Wallpaper is also making a comeback in the master as well as other bathrooms of the home. Remember the days when each room of a house might have a different colored carpet? One great thing about wallpaper in a bathroom is that it allows each member of the family to express their own tastes while allowing the other ele-

ments, like carpet and trim color, maintain the home's continuity.

Dining Room: Wallpaper in the dining room is an excellent way to make it known that you have excellent tastes in interior design. How many houses have you been into today that have a living room right across the entrance from the dining room? It is usually the large table and chairs that gives away which one the dining rooms is, but if it weren't for that, who would know?

Wallpaper is a great solution for rooms that lack personality. However, if you are tempted to buy the fabric that matches the wallpaper, then you have gone too far. There are too many beautiful fabrics just waiting on the bolt for you to coordinate with your new wallpaper to create an intensely interesting room. Considering wallpaper in your dining

room is a wonderful idea, and you will make a room so unique in your home that your relatives will remember in which room they spent the holidays.

Kitchen: Kitchens are another great place to accent with wallpaper. Like the powder room, the kitchen is an excellent place to experiment and reintroduce wallpaper back into your life. In this room, the cabinets and tile backsplash take up so much of the wall that you are left with a minimum amount of space for any finish material. Wallpaper is also a fairly easy surface to clean in the kitchen, which has become the hearth of the home in today's designs.

Care with Selection: Tasteful selection is the key here. In this writer's opinion, you should stay away from anything at which you could look and think, "How dated will this look in

five years, in ten years?" If you are wondering what would fit into this category, think about extremely oversized floral prints, overly bright colors and old style metallic papers. If you even have the slightest feeling that a paper would become outdated, then do not select it. Instead, for example, look for natural fibers, like silk and woven papers such as the newer grass cloths. Spend some time looking at top of the line wallpapers and then depending on your budget, locate something that is most similar to the more expensive papers. Since wallpaper can be used as an accent, paying a bit more for luxurious wallpaper is a very controlled way to do something special in your home.

Installation: Finally, if you live in a home that was constructed with all textured and painted walls, it requires a bit of an effort to

retro-fit any room with wallpaper. Of all of the do it yourself jobs, that would be an excellent time to leave it to a professional. Call a drywall company and inquire about the process it takes to prepare textured sheetrock for papering. The good news is that there are some very heavy gauge papers on the market that can be applied over a very lightly textured wall. If you are designing a home or have bought one early on in the construction phase, let the architect and builder know that you have plans for wallpaper in certain rooms. That way they can have their drywall people prepare the walls accordingly. Enjoy the process of rediscovering wallpaper. It can be a beautiful addition to any décor and give a home, which lacks personality, an interior designer look.



Get Professional Results without the Professional

In the do-it-yourself television shows, the pros make it look so easy and for them, it is. They have a lot of big tools to do the work; they know which tools are right for the job and how to use them. This information is not privileged and you don't have to watch years of do-it-yourself shows to learn how.

Your local rental store carries the same tools the pros use. Rental stores also have professionals on staff to explain how to use them, videos you can watch for further education, and you can practice before you take it home so you do the job right -- without damage to yourself, your house or the tool.

To get your money's worth out of renting a specialty tool, there are a few things you should know to rent right.

First, choose the best tool for the job. Tell the rental shop what you want to accomplish rather than what tool you want to rent. You may discover they have a different tool that will do the job better and quicker. Trust the store to rent you the tool you need and not more tool than you can handle.

Trust them to provide correct information. At better rental stores, they will volunteer answers for questions you don't know enough to ask. "We're investigating," says Ward Redman, assistant manager of A to Z Rental Center in Minneapolis, Minn. "We ask all types of questions to try to figure out what you're doing. That way we can recommend the proper equipment so you get the fastest, most efficient way to do the job."

The information they can provide is invaluable -- so not only do you rent well-maintained equipment, but you rent it with the security of knowing you're doing it the best way possible. Once you decide on a tool, they'll teach you how to use it safely. "We really stress safety to the customer," says Redman. "If something doesn't seem right, call us. If we can't help you figure it out over the phone, we'll send someone over to help in person." Plus, they'll give instruction on project preparation before taking the tool home.

Here are some examples of tool possibilities you can use and knowledge you'll get at a rental store:

Paint Sprayer

Painting is one of the simplest, most inexpensive redecorating projects. You can make it even more simple and faster with a rented airless paint sprayer.

Be prepared and you'll get incredibly fast spray

painting. Cover, mask and tape windows, furniture and floors, and thin and strain the paint through a nylon stocking or paint filter. "You're going to have to thin the paint to get it to go through the sprayer," explains Redman. "We'll give general directions on how to thin it, but you need to carefully read the manufacturer's instructions on how to thin their paint."

Get these steps done before driving to the rental yard to pick up the sprayer. You'll save yourself the expense of time when you have the tool and aren't using it. Keep the paint supply clean and don't let the paint dry out to keep the nozzle from clogging.

If the nozzle gets clogged, don't put your hand in front of the spray. An airless sprayer can severely damage flesh in seconds. The instructions will tell you how to unclog the nozzle. "And don't point the sprayer at anything you don't want to paint -- like the neighbor's car," he says.

Nail Gun

Use a nail gun to avoid the frustration and pain of hammering. Nail guns drive nails much faster and set the nails below the surface so the nails are ready for filling. A few tips for the first-time nail gun user: use manufacturer-specified nails to keep the gun from jamming. Keep the nails clean -- don't put nails into the gun that were just dropped into sawdust. Learn how to lubricate the head if you plan to use it for more than a day.

Power Auger

Another common do-it-yourself project is fence building. What can be a quick project becomes weeks-long if you have a lot of holes to dig. Rent a power auger to dig all the post holes for you, and your fence really can be a weekend job.

Two-person power augers are perfect for fence post holes. These machines drill holes for small-diameter uses and come with interchangeable 4-, 6- or 8-inch augers. "It's important to know what kind of soil you're digging in," Redman suggests. "If it's rocky, you might need a bigger machine."

Other tools available for rental include a skid steer, walk-behind trencher, drywall hoist, cement mixer and tile saw to name a few. Some of which you may think "I couldn't really operate one of those." But in reality, you can. The rental store staff will make it easy for you to learn how to use the right tools for your project. With the right tools you get professional results without the professional. ARA

Home Improvement Quick and Crazy

Krylon Retail Products Senior Project Manager Mark Ksiezyk points out that both experienced and novice do-it-yourselfers choose spray paint for convenience. “The can is the application tool,” he says. “You get a smooth finish without brush marks, and have an easier time covering hard-to-reach or irregular surfaces. Only a little skill and effort are required to get great results - and there’s no investment for tools.”

But even with something as easy to use as spray paint, it’s important to follow directions and use good technique. When applying spray paint, work in a well-ventilated area at temperatures of 50°F to 80°F.

Use newspapers or drop cloths to cover surrounding surfaces. To get started, all that’s needed is a clean, dry surface that’s free of loose particles.

Next, hold the can upright and shake it vigorously for two minutes. For best results, test the spray on newspaper, and with each overlapping pass, start and stop the spray off the surface. Move the can slowly and evenly, keeping it 10 to 12 inches from the surface. With proper technique, even the first-time spray painter can get great-looking results. N/C



Great Wallpaper Projects Start With Prep

The key to an easy, beautiful wallpaper job is in the prep.



Wallpaper has emerged as one of this season's hottest decorating trends. And it's easier to hang than you think!

The key to successful wallpapering is preparation. Just follow these simple steps for an easy, beautiful wallpaper job:

Select your wallpaper. Wallpaper is available in a wide variety of styles and colors — from elegant to whimsical. Your local paint & decorating store or home center has a wide selection of patterns from which to choose. Or check out wallpaper manufacturer Web sites for the latest styles and trends.

Clear the room. Move furniture away from walls and set up a large table to work on. Be sure to protect the carpet and furniture from adhesive splatters and spills by laying down drop cloths.

Clean the walls. Remove dirt, grime, grease, old wallpaper adhesive and any other contaminants that may interfere with adhesion with a simple ammonia and water or soap and water solution. Rinse clean and allow to dry. If there is existing wallpaper, remove it by scoring the wall with PaperTiger® Scoring tool and applying a wallpaper stripper like DIF® Wallpaper Stripper. Available in concentrate and ready-to-use gel and fast-acting liquid formulas, DIF

penetrates with special enzymes and wetting agents that loosen any type of wallpaper and dissolve old glue regardless of the surface.

Prepare the surface. Wallpaper needs a smooth, sealed surface to look its best, so before you hang your wallpaper, apply a coat of wallcovering primer, like SHIELDZ® Universal Wallcovering Primer. SHIELDZ seals the surface and hides previous colors in one coat, creating the perfect surface for hanging wallpaper. Priming also makes wallpaper easier to position, improves its adhesion, and makes it easier to remove at re-decorating time. Plus, SHIELDZ protects against the growth of mold & mildew under the wall-

paper, so it is great for bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms and other high-humidity areas of the home.

You're ready to hang! Simply follow the wallpaper manufacturer's hanging instructions and before you know it, you'll have a beautiful room that reflects your personality and style. For more "tips" on making wallpaper hanging easy — or advice on other home improvement projects, visit www.zinsser.com. MS

