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SELECTING THE RIGHT KITCHEN CABINETRY FOR A HOME REMODEL
Finish, quality, and cost all factor in to the decision-making process

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (June 2006) – Cabinets are creating a stir among homeowners with roughly 60 percent of an average kitchen’s cost spent on the cabinetry. Choosing the right cabinets from a wealth of options is a critical decision in remodeling a room and in new construction. Selecting a finish to enhance the overall kitchen environment and level of use and the best possible quality at an affordable price is not an easy task. Kitchen and bath design professionals, such as the 175 independent kitchen and bath professionals in the SEN Design Group, are a tremendous resource to homeowners shopping for just the right cabinetry.

“Understanding cabinet qualities and the performance of various types of cabinet construction materials is the first thing to embark upon. Based on that, the homeowner can then evaluate the price as it relates to the quality of the product,” said Ken Peterson, CKD, president of the SEN Design Group. “Because cabinetry typically dominates the cost of a new kitchen, I always advise that homeowners contact a kitchen professional to learn about the differences in cabinet quality grades.”

The leading expert in the kitchen and bath industry, the SEN Design Group recommends that homeowners compare wood or laminate finishes in their selection process. Also that they ask about the way the cabinet finish is achieved. For example, the best wood cabinet finishes use a multiple step process of sanding, sealing, hand-wipe staining, and finish coating.

According to SEN designers, other critical steps in the cabinetry selection process include accurately measuring the space available in the kitchen and surveying the overall configuration of the room to determine the best possible design choices for aesthetic, functional cabinets within budget parameters. Finally, but possibly most important, correctly ordering the cabinetry. When cabinetry fits together like a giant erector set of scores, even hundreds, of parts and pieces, cabinet ordering is no easy assignment.

“New cabinetry is an expensive endeavor and homeowners should pursue a first class installation by a professional. Selecting a reputable company with a qualified installation staff is an investment that will pay off,” adds Peterson. “It will make a night and day difference in both look and performance of the new room.”

As the kitchen and bath industry continues to flourish, remodeling an existing home kitchen is becoming an increasingly popular pursuit among homeowners. The role of cabinetry in the overall finished look and function of the space is most crucial to the success of a kitchen design and the enjoyment of spending valuable leisure time there.

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About SEN Design Group:

The SEN Design Group is the industry's *first* kitchen and bath buying and design group. As an 11-year-old professional group, SEN has over 175 members nationwide and more than 130 preferred vendors in cabinetry, appliances, plumbing fixtures, decorative hardware, closets, lighting and accessories, offering their products at buying group rates to the membership. All SEN designers are well versed in the full range of home design and improvement options, from contemporary, to traditional and even to rustic, natural design trends. For more information on SEN, visit www.sendesign.com and/or contact Ken Peterson, CKD at 1.800.991.1711 or by email at kpeterson@sendesign.com.

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