

Say You Saw It In . . . The Independent & Free Press Real Estate Digest

Quality should be a fixture in a kitchen renovation

Newlyweds Linda and Rick Lajoie decided to buy and renovate an older home instead of a new property. They had looked at all the options and decided this was the most economical option for them.

But when it came time to begin they were a little daunted. The kitchen required the most remodeling, as the linoleum floor had begun to peel in the corners, dark cabinet doors made the kitchen appear smaller and counter space was tight. This meant a major overhaul, and would cost more money than Linda and Rick were willing to spend right now.

So the couple compromised and decided to update some of the kitchen's features now and plan for a more major renovation a few years away.

The first stop was the leaky, squeaky faucet—an important kitchen fixture that designers say is often a secondary consideration when remodeling.

A previous owner had installed an inexpensive, single-handed faucet that was showing severe wear and tear.

More often than not, buying the least expensive means you're getting an inferior quality product, says Frank Buck, vice-president of marketing at Moen, the North American Leader in faucets.

"It all comes down to balancing cost against quality. Buying decisions are frequently driven by practical considerations, including price. But low quality is always a bad bargain."

Linda and Rick sought the advice of a plumber, who removed the old faucet and helped them choose a new one.

"The kitchen is one of the most frequently used rooms in the house," says Buck. "Your faucet should face up to a lot of daily wear and tear. It should also be easy to clean and require as little maintenance as possible."

It's important to balance quality, design, and style against price when choosing a faucet, experts advise. Buy the best quality you can afford.

Do you have a plumbing question? Visit Moen's website at:

<http://www.moen.com>.

How to choose a faucet?

- Think carefully about your family needs

ly needs

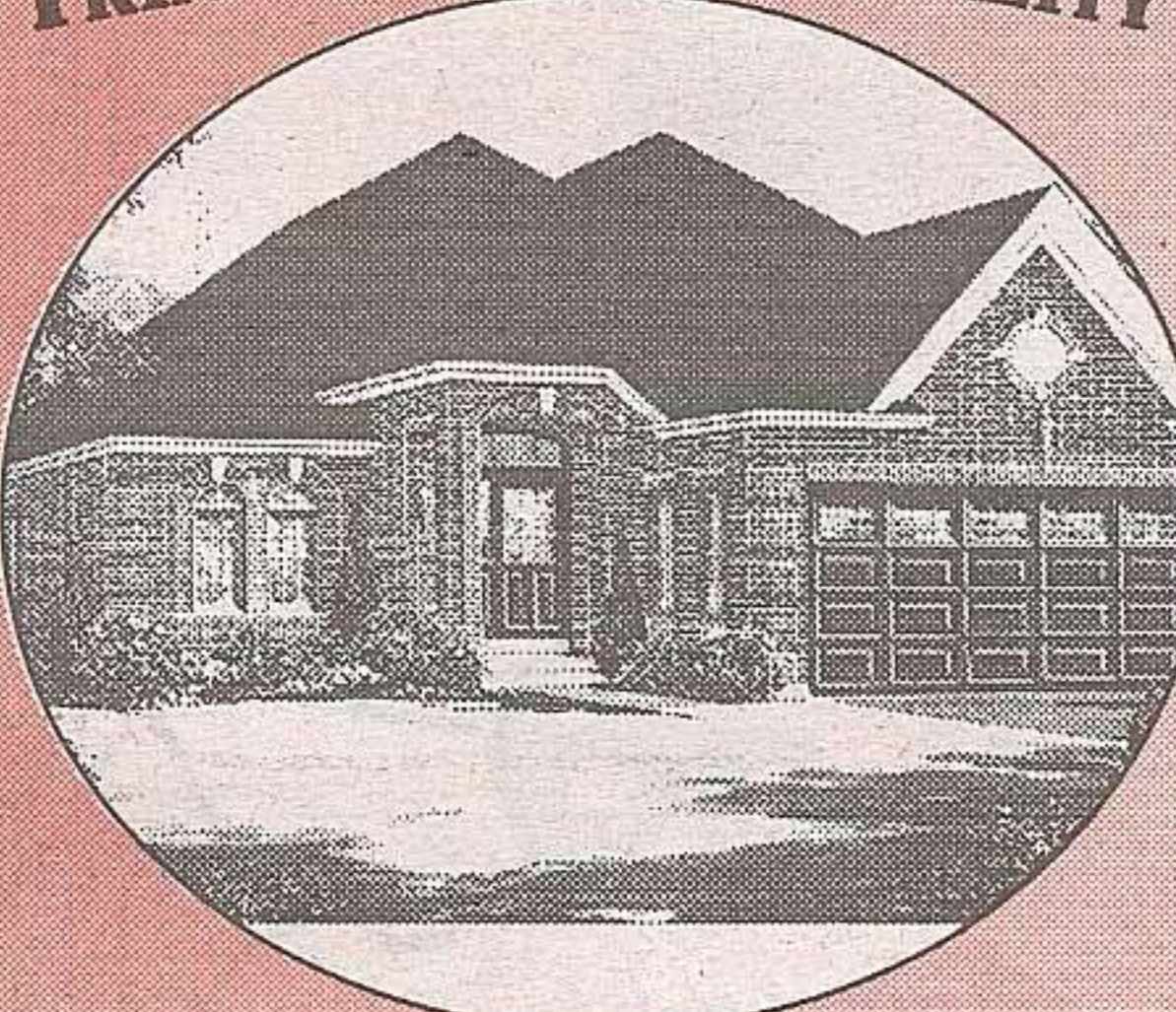
- Ask a professional plumber for advice
- Visit plumbing, hardware or speciality bath stores to review what's available
- Ask about the quality of engineering, replacement parts and warranties

• Look for a faucet with a washerless cartridge and a non-tarnish finish

• Consider do-it-yourself installation or consult with a plumber about a professional installation

• Buy the best quality you can afford

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