

How to update your kitchen without losing your shirt

Your cabinets are the focal point of your kitchen. They set the style and create the mood. When you want to update that style or are just ready for a "new look," you have two choices— remodeling or refinishing.

According to Remodeling Magazine, the average cost to remodel an upscale kitchen is over \$68,000. For a midrange job the average cost is roughly \$43,000. For most people, these costs are too high and discouraging.

However, there is a more cost-effective method according to Eric Chaimberg of Swing Paints, "If your kitchen is in good condition, you can simply transform it by refinishing your cabinets and changing the countertops. This is the most economical solution for anyone looking for an updated look. Plus, refinishing means a minimal disruption to your daily life with less mess and no damage to your walls and floors.

Twenty years ago, if you wanted a professionally stained finish for your cabinets, you either had to be a professional yourself or look to hire one. Today there are finishing gels that even a novice do-it-yourselfer can easily apply with outstanding results. There is no mixing needed, no matching, just straight out of the can. And, if you choose a similar or darker colour to your existing cabinets, you won't even have to strip them down to the bare wood.

Chaimberg recommends Circa 1850 Stain'n Varnish, a unique product that combines the penetration of a wood stain

with the protective qualities of a hand rubbed varnish— all in one easy to use gel.

"You no longer have to stain your wood, wait 'til it dries, then apply the finish," said Chaimberg. "You can now do both in one quick and easy step. The first coat is simply wiped on with a rag. There's no need to sand, simply let it dry 12-24 hours."

Applying additional hand-rubbed coats will deepen the colour and add more protection, added Chaimberg. "Or you can use Circa 1850 Antique Paste Varnish as the second coat to get the added protection without changing the colour."

Because Circa1850 Stain'n Varnish is a gel, it can be applied to any type of cabinet surface: wood, plastic, metal, masonite, composite, etc. In fact, it is the best way to give non-wood surfaces, such as embossed composite doors, the look of real wood.

Besides ease of use and a consistent finish, Circa 1850 Stain'n Varnish can also offer a new colour dimension to the finishing spectrum with grain highlighting. "You can take any kind of wood— oak, cherry, whatever— and finish it in forest green, emerald and steel blue or even black cherry," added Chaimberg. "That's something you just can't do with anything else. And because it is transparent, a thin coat of a contrasting colour over an existing colour can be used to give wood an antique, distressed, or faux-finish." For more information or tips on finishing your cabinets visit www.circa1850.com.

—News Canada



Mary Maan*
*Sales Rep.

Johnson Associates

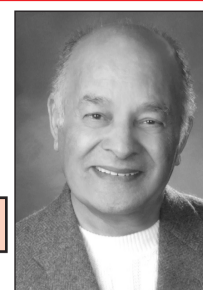
HALTON LTD., BROKERAGE



www.Haltonhomesearch.com

905-877-5165

Mississauga 905-874-3040



Tony Maan*
*Sales Rep.



OVERLOOKS THE PARK...\$349,000

Right on the edge of the park district overlooking Cedarvale Park. Large character home - main level has a family room with open woodburning fireplace, walkout to the inground pool, 2 offices and a library, large living/dining rm combination with another walkout to the extra large fenced garden with many mature trees. Oak stairs and landing leading to the upper level with 4 fair-sized bdrms; all with hardwood floors. High visibility - ideal for home-based business. Call Mary* or Tony* for viewing.



IMMACULATE SEMI \$259,900

Best deal in town - semi in Georgetown South, walking distance to all the amenities. Open concept, kitchen open to the living room and breakfast area, walkout to fenced yard, hardwood and ceramics, 3 bedrooms, garage. In move-in condition. Pride of ownership. Call Mary* or Tony* to view.



Janis Braid** **Dave Braid***
**Assoc. Broker *Sales Rep.

RE/MAX®
REAL ESTATE
CENTRE
INC.

Members of ReMax Hall of Fame & 100% Club

*Continually providing
Old Fashioned Service*

(519) 853-2086 Toll Free 1-888-833-1945

E-mails: janisbraid@yahoo.ca dbraid@trebnet.com



TRULY A PRIVATE LOCATION

Gorgeous private treed large 0.56 acre property in picturesque Eden Mills, adjoining park. Hardwood under carpet in dining room & main floor bedrooms. Large living room with cathedral ceilings. Games room + possible 4th bedroom in the formal attached insulated garage, which can be converted back. **Dave Braid*** 06-041



BRAMPTON CONDO

Fabulous location, and spacious 3 bedroom condo in a well maintained building. Updates include ceramic foyer, newer bathroom, fixtures, upgrade laundry facilities. Asking \$152,900. Call **Janis Braid**** **1-888-833-1945** 06-032



INCOME PROPERTY

Live in one, rent the other or just have an investment. This legal duplex in Acton has many upgrades including electrical, plumbing, some windows, roof. Great location for commuters and close to schools and amenities. Asking \$209,000. Call **Dave*** or **Janis**** **519-853-2086** 06-044



HANDYMAN SPECIAL!

Fabulous potential here. Main floor 3 bedroom home requires complete renovation. Upper 1 bedroom apartment already done. Asking only \$159,900. Huge 50 x 150 foot lot. Call **Dave*** or **Janis**** **519-853-2086** 06-021



STOP HORSING AROUND

This is the most affordable 47 acres in this area. Long paved drive meanders past a pond to a solid four bedroom brick home with double car garage. Lots of potential at only \$469,900. Call **Dave*** or **Janis**** toll free at **1-888-833-1945** for more info. 06-003



LOOKING TO FARM?

73 acres with paddocks, fields and bush. Approx. 17 year old custom brick home with att 2 car garage. Oak kit. cabinetry, b/i appliances. Breakfast area, mn flr fam rm, floor-to-ceiling brick FP. Large fin.rec room. 6+ stall barn with overhead storage set up for horses. Summer cottage in the woods. Numerous outbuildings. Asking \$599,000. **Janis Braid**** **519-853-2086** 06-019



FABULOUS FAMILY HOME

Large 4 bedroom home, well maintained, country kitchen, 40x20 inground pool. Asking \$315,000 Call **Janis Braid**** **519-853-2086** 06-046



FABULOUS 4 BEDROOM TOWNHOME

In great location. New laminate flr throughout, ceramics in kitchen and bathrooms. Completely renovated top to bottom! Private backyard. No need to inspect, just move in! \$209,000. **Janis Braid**** **519-853-2086** 06-047