

Sunset

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Top 10 hidden getaways

Best romantic cottage
weekends in Oregon,
Washington, and beyond

Waimea Plantation
Cottages, page 28

Spring borders
to plant now

Easy single-
pan suppers

Make over your
kitchen: 3 designs
to inspire you

FEBRUARY 2007

\$4.99/\$6.50 in Canada

Top eco-friendly kitchen counters

	What is it?	What makes it green?	Cost and contact info
RECYCLED GLASS	 <p>Colorful recycled glass mixed into a cement, concrete, or resin base. Counters can be integrally colored or stained for more variation and color coordination with cabinetry or painted surfaces. Note: As with all counter materials, labor and installation can cost extra and vary by region.</p>	<p>Diverts used glass from the waste stream. The cement in some counters is mixed with fly ash, a waste product of coal-burning that would otherwise end up in landfills; this also reduces greenhouse gas-producing cement manufacturing.</p>	<p>It's pricey. EnviroGlas Products, Plano, TX (from \$50 per sq. ft.; www.enviroglasproducts.com or 888/523-7894); Syndecrete, Santa Monica (from \$80 per sq. ft.; www.syndecrete.com or 310/829-9704); Vetrazzo, Richmond, CA (pictured; from \$55 per sq. ft.; www.vetrazzo.com or 510/234-5550).</p>
END-GRAIN BAMBOO	 <p>Chopping blocks made of slender rectangles of end-grain bamboo glued into panels (usually 1½ inches thick). Available in natural or brown.</p>	<p>Bamboo is a great substitute for wood because its fast growth makes it more renewable. Low-off-gassing glues don't harm indoor air quality. Can be cut with standard woodworking tools.</p>	<p>Midrange cost compared with natural or manufactured stone products. Smith & Fong, South San Francisco, CA (pictured; \$23 per sq. ft.; www.plyboo.com or 866/835-9859); Teragren, Bainbridge Island, WA (from \$22 per sq. ft.; www.teragren.com or 800/929-6333).</p>
RECYCLED PAPER	 <p>Recycled paper in a resin base. Available in thicknesses ranging from ¾ inch to 2 inches; integrally colored in many hues. Heat- and stain-resistant with honed-surface look.</p>	<p>Uses postconsumer recycled paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, and nonpetroleum, formaldehyde-free resins, some made from cashew nut shell liquid. Can be cut and shaped with standard woodworking tools.</p>	<p>Low- to midrange cost and easy-to-work-with characteristics make it ideal for the budget-conscious home craftsman. PaperStone, Hoquiam, WA (pictured; from \$30 per sq. ft.; www.paperstoneproducts.com or 360/538-9815).</p>
SUSTAINABLE WOOD	 <p>Butcher-block counters, some from reclaimed or recycled lumber, others from handsome but lesser-known tree species that have been sustainably harvested. Butcher blocks can be made from slender lengths or end-grain blocks.</p>	<p>Using reclaimed wood reduces need for harvesting new trees. Recycled old-growth lumber often has tighter grain and better quality. Underutilized species (such as Pacific madrone) expand the range of grain and color choices and offer high-quality lumber from managed forests.</p>	<p>Medium to high cost compared to traditional butcher blocks. Add cost of shipping. Endura Wood Products, Portland (pictured; from \$50 per sq. ft.; www.endurawood.com or 866/263-3939); Windfall Lumber, Olympia, WA (from \$50 per sq. ft.; www.windfalllumber.com or 360/352-2250).</p>
RECYCLED ALUMINUM	 <p>Eleek uses 50 to 90 percent recycled aluminum to make countertop-depth pieces up to 3 feet wide with built-in front lip and backsplash, and to make tiles. Renewed Materials makes Alkemi, a solid-surface material containing postindustrial scrap aluminum in polymeric resin.</p>	<p>Eleek's products, which also include sinks, light fixtures, and hardware, are all made with recycled metals that can also be recycled at the end of their useful life. Metal products are finished with reusable abrasives and recirculated water. Clear-coat finish is food-safe and nontoxic.</p>	<p>High cost makes it comparable to upper-end granite. Eleek, Portland (pictured; from \$95 per sq. ft.; cost includes custom fabrication; www.eleek.com or 503/232-5526); Renewed Materials, Cabin John, MD (from \$39 per sq. ft.; www.alkemi.com or 301/320-0042). —PETER O. WHITELEY</p>

FROM TOP: ROB D. BRODMAN (2), COURTESY OF KLIPTECH COMPOSITES, ROB D. BRODMAN, COURTESY OF ELEEK