

Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest

**CHOICES**  
for every budget

# KITCHEN

## AND BATH IDEAS®

KitchenBathIdeas.com

# PRODUCTS GUIDE™

Compare  
Styles &  
Prices

**Time to Update?**  
We help you shop!



**GET THIS  
LOOK** p. 96

Spring/Summer 2010  
Display until August 31



\$4.99 U.S.

BNP SIP Orange Neck NJ



**Appliances**  
p. 50



**Faucets &  
Fixtures**  
p. 74



**Cabinetry**  
p. 34

**and more!**



2

### 2. HARD KNOCKS

One and a half times harder than red oak, these strand bamboo countertops are prefinished and bacteria-resistant. A vertical-grain caramelized core adds visual pizzazz to this LEED-qualified work surface.

**Strand bamboo countertop/tabletop**, \$36–\$40 per square foot; Teragren; 800/929-6333; [teragren.com](http://teragren.com)

### 3. MUCH IMPROVED

The rap on concrete? Its vulnerability to acids such as wine, citrus, vinegar, and coffee. This stain-resistant version is durable and versatile but maintains concrete's distinctive texture and resists etching.

**Stainless concrete**, price varies; J. Aaron; 866/583-4200; [jaaroncaststone.com](http://jaaroncaststone.com)

### 4. SURFACE WISE

What to do with all those old toilets, sinks, and tubs? Grind them up into an easy-to-maintain, durable, eco-friendly, and beautiful countertop available in hundreds of colors.

**EnviroMode**, \$50 per square foot (per piece up to 27x84 inches); EnviroGlas; 888/523-7894; [enviromode.com](http://enviromode.com)



3

## Buying Tips

While having small sections of every countertop to suit different needs would be ideal, you'll probably have to choose a main surface for your kitchen based on what you do day to day. Here's a quick guide to countertops and their best functions:

- **Marble:** A cool surface that's great for rolling out dough.
- **Laminated butcher block:** Forgiving of small cuts, it's ideal for a salad or vegetable prep area. Teak and other marine-grade species add moisture resistance.
- **Granite, quartz-surfacing, concrete, and ceramic tile:** Great near cooking areas for their resistance to heat and scorching. (Even so, use a trivet under hot pots.)
- **Stainless steel, quartz-surfacing, and solid-surfacing:** Best near the sink for moisture resistance and durability.



4