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# Your dream kitchen for less

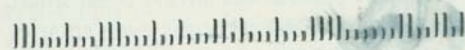
Most  
reliable  
brands

- Ratings of 224 appliances, countertops, flooring & more
- Best places to buy
- 8,000 readers reveal their biggest mistakes

27

WAYS TO SAVE ON  
APPLIANCES, INSTALLATION,  
CABINETS & LIGHTING

#BXBDHLE \*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*\*C-049  
#CNS0228195103/1# DEBOB 16022 P00055  
JOHN PERINA 0110  
813 BISHOP ST  
UNION NJ 07083-7101 20555





# Top KITCHEN values

Secrets  
of a  
successful  
remodel

**C**ombine expert advice on the best appliances, countertops, and flooring with the real-life remodeling experiences of thousands of homeowners and what do you get? CONSUMER REPORTS' annual kitchen guide.

Our engineers spent months sizing up refrigerators, running dishwashers, staining countertops, and punishing flooring. Some products impressed (a new flooring from Teragren is one of the best bamboo products we've tested), while others fell flat. (The "SteamQuick cleaning system" on a Samsung electric range was mostly hot air.)

This year the Consumer Reports National Research Center also asked 8,000 readers and 1,000 other Americans nationwide about their kitchens. One survey focused on subscribers who recently remodeled. We asked them what worked and what they wish they could do over. Another survey probed consumers' kitchen habits: who does the cooking and cleanup, how often they entertain, and what causes kitchen clutter.

One thing many folks agree on is that you're not likely to get back every dollar you spend on a kitchen remodel today. So unless you're remodeling to sell, create the best kitchen for you and your family, not some prospective buyer. Our advice will help you uncover kitchen values. What's more, today's tough housing market makes it a good time to remodel: Contractors aren't as busy, and hungry appliance retailers and home centers are offering more deals than ever.

And if you're not in the market for an extensive remodel, check out "Where to Save: Mini Makeovers," on page 21.

Most readers were highly satisfied with their new kitchen.



PHOTOGRAPH BY CLAUDIO SANTINI

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