

This Old House

26
new kitchen
& bath
products

The Big Reveal

Inside our Detroit and Arlington TV houses



Family-friendly
kitchens
Budget
bath ideas
Build a
butcher block
Buyer's guide:
Smart locks



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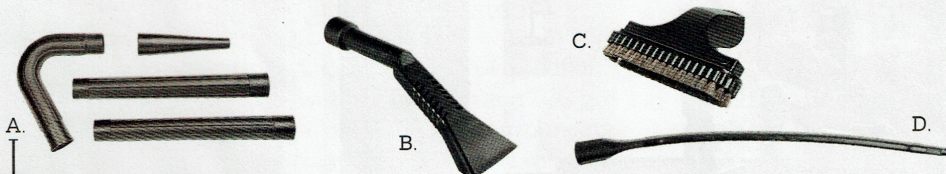
Heal that scratched cooktop

Gleaming stainless steel remains the No. 1 pick for kitchen appliances. But if you love to cook, you're going to get scratches. DIY fixes float around the Internet, but we got the best results with the Scratch-B-Gone Homeowner Kit (\$50; restoreityourselfproducts.com). Note that it works on brushed, uncoated stainless steel only. Going with the grain, (1) hit scratches with the finger pad; (2) apply oxidizer solution with a handheld buffing tool; and (3) polish with a microfiber cloth. Then vow to replace all your rough-bottomed skillets.



Clever vac attachments

Your home's winter-weary nooks and crannies could use a little attention, even those outside. Think of this as a chance to deploy one of the latest specialty vacuum attachments—checking first to make sure it's compatible with your machine.



A > Snorkels into gutters. Ridgid's wet-vac Gutter Cleaning Kit can blow away or suck up leaves from the safety of terra firma and isn't fazed by leaves that have decayed to wet clumps. \$30; homedepot.com

B > Claws out crumbs. Use this angled nozzle to annihilate the Doritos debris between your car seats. The Ridgid Claw Car Nozzle, like the gutter cleaner, has a 2½-inch fitting. \$9.96; homedepot.com

C > Renews your furniture. The Vacuum Upholstery Tool has slide-on bristles so it can double as a duster. \$11; vacuumcleanermarket.com

D > Sniffs under the fridge. Long and skinny and bends like a yogi: The Flexible 24-inch Crevice Tool can slide under appliances and can even angle in and under the dryer lint trap. Like the upholstery tool, it has a 1¼-inch fitting. \$18; vacuumcleanermarket.com



A matte-black Brizo faucet works well with bronze sconces by Visual Comfort.

Any advice for using matte-black finishes?



Kristina Crestin, an interior designer in Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA, likes the timeless appeal and dramatic contrast of matte black. Her strategy for making it work:

START WITH THE LIGHTING AND PLUMBING FIXTURES. It's always good to keep these in the same color family, and it pays to choose them early. The pairing shown in the bath above helps drive the rest of the scheme.

BALANCE BLACK WITH NEUTRALS AND NATURALS. Dialed-back whites and unpainted wood allow matte-black finishes to stand out. In this bath, we even ended the tile in a quiet way, with a narrow white bullnose.

WEAVE IN SUBTLER CONTRASTS. Think about incorporating different textures and sheens. Here, the matte-black faucet plays off leathery ceramic hex tile and a sleek, shiny quartz vanity top.