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Budget Decorating Comparison: Real Life vs. TV

By Kathleen Wilson

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Have you ever watched those tv decorating shows, you know, the ones that promise to help you redecorate your home on a tight budget? Were you ever amazed to then find, by tight budget they mean \$500, or even \$1000? I have, and I don't know about you, but their budget is WAY out of my budget! Now don't get me wrong, these shows have great ideas, I watch them all the time for ideas myself. But I thought it might be fun to do a breakdown of a simulation of a typical show, and then show you The Budget Decorator's way!

Typical Living room re-do on tv:

Paint\$25
Fabric for Curtains\$80
Accessories\$100
Extra Furnishings\$150
Rug\$150

Grand Total\$505

Typical Re-do for a Budget Decorator (Not unlike yourself!)

Paint\$15 (Decent brand on sale)
Fabric\$12 (Sheets on sale, stamped or stenciled yourself, even extra for pillows!)
Accessories\$10 (A few dollar picture frames filled with garden catalog photos, ceramic pitcher from the kitchen filled with flowers, books stacked, dollar store candles on homemade candleholders, plants from cuttings, you get the idea!)
Extra Furnishings\$15 (Tables made from glass rounds and clay pots, garage sale dresser painted by you for a side table, thrift store entertainment center with a great faux finish, done by you, of course!)
Rug\$16 (Floorcloth painted by you on a clearance piece of vinyl flooring, I even included the price for a quart of sealant!)

Grand Total The Budget Decorator's way? \$68.

Now that is a difference of \$437. I don't know about you, but I have a whole lot of better places to spend my \$437. A little creativity and a little work, and you can spread your expenses over time if you need to. And visit me at TheBudgetDecorator.com for more great ideas!

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Kathleen Wilson is the editor of The Budget Decorator, a free ezine dedicated to the "budget"impaired" home decorator, and author of "Quick Decorating Ideas Under \$20". Visit her at

<http://www.TheBudgetDecorator.com> for more great ideas and projects.

Country Kitchen Decorating Ideas Are Cozy And Comforting

By Grace P. Fairchild

Country kitchen decorating ideas are for any person who gets pleasure from the warm, earthy feeling of the simplicity of nature. Decorating country kitchen is among the most popular types of interior decorating. This is because of the overall feeling of being welcoming and friendly that country kitchen decorating has to offer those who own the kitchen, as well as any guests and visitors.

If you are considering country and kitchen and decorating ideas, then you will need to decide if you're going to be limiting it to your kitchen, or if you'll be spreading it throughout your home. You will also need to look into the ideas and country kitchen and decorating ideas budget that you'll have available to get the job done.

Among the most popular country kitchen ideas are the following:

* Colors - a country style kitchen usually includes fresh, clean, and warm colors. These may include yellows, browns, greens, whites, and pinks, in their medium shades. They can also be accents in the fruits, flowers, vegetables, plants, and other accessories that you can add to your country kitchen decorating idea.

* Furniture - country kitchen decorating ideas usually include furniture in lighter woods, as well as wicker furniture. Floral and gingham patterns flatter the upholstery of chairs and couches well, by either purchasing new furniture or creating slip covers for your existing furniture.

* Flooring - country kitchen decorating means that you'll have natural wood, tile, or flagstone flooring. If these are outside of your budget, an equally appropriate look can be achieved with wall-to-wall carpeting or laminate in the correct light shade. Hooked or braided rugs add an authentic appeal to finish the look.

* Accessories - while decorating country kitchen, the accessories that work best are those that your

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family enjoys. Photos in wooden frames, paintings of rustic scenes, plants, candles, and lace curtains will all do the trick.

Country kitchens can be a great deal of fun. Just stay open minded, and pick the features that you like the most!

Grace writes for

North Carolina's largest online furniture store

offering premium furniture including a large selection of kitchen

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