



### Designer's Tips

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**Tip #12:** Check out Web sites that sell quality plumbing fixtures, lighting, and hardware. You'll often find what you want for much less than you've been quoted. Although it is helpful to have a professional guide you on the best options, there is usually enough information online to help you make a decision. I use [bulld.com](http://bulld.com), [fixtureuniverse.com](http://fixtureuniverse.com), and [lightinguniverse.com](http://lightinguniverse.com) to purchase fixtures at discount prices. Some even offer free shipping for purchases exceeding a certain amount.

**Tip #13:** Order only large storage items, such as a lazy Susan and wastebasket pullouts, from the cabinet manufacturer. These are difficult to install after the kitchen has been finished. Small items, such as cutlery dividers and spice racks, are easy to add later and can be purchased at a kitchen supply store for less than they'd cost from a custom cabinetmaker. After moving everything back into your remodeled kitchen and functioning in it, you can determine where things need to be stored for the greatest efficiency, then can purchase the small items.

**Tip #14:** Choose black appliances instead of stainless steel. This allows you to spend a considerably less money, and your kitchen will look just as sharp. Also, when considering which brand to choose, be aware that most high-end brands are not necessarily better quality. Many offer options that are not needed for standard cooking. Using a more reasonably priced brand, such as GE, means a kitchen can look great and still be reliable for cooking, refrigeration, and cleaning.



### Tip #15:

Reduce the size of your backsplash in some areas to save money on material and labor. Install a full-height backsplash behind the range and a 4-inch backsplash of the countertop material or an inexpensive decorative tile detail in the rest of the kitchen. Then the backsplash behind the range becomes a focal point. Paint the walls above the 4-inch backsplash a different color than elsewhere in the kitchen or even paint a design to give that area a custom look.