

KITCHENS & Baths

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Woman's Day Innovation Series
Volume VII, Number 2
U.S. \$3.99 Canada \$4.50
Display Until July 15, 1997



going green

It's now the number-one kitchen color among decorators, perhaps because it takes us closer to nature.

We all want a piece of the great outdoors. Sometimes even confirmed urbanites like to surround themselves with rural tranquillity. From moss-colored walls to forest-hued countertops, green is the leading kitchen color.

While green does suggest some

of Mother Nature's best work, it has acquired another connotation: It has become synonymous with interest in the preservation of the environment.

"Green is more than a color," says Donna McIntyre, senior design consultant at Downsview

Kitchens of Naples in Florida. "We are in the midst of a 'green' movement. Many clients want chemical-free and natural products in their homes." The countertops and floors in this kitchen (above) are made of granite—a natural product. —*M.H.*

Above left: The owners of this kitchen refuse to own a microwave. "They chose a spruce green for the cabinets because it is their favorite color," notes designer Donna McIntyre.

Above right: Designer John Seibert of Birdseye Building & Design, in Vermont, opted to conceal some of this kitchen's high-tech appliances under natural wood and stone.

Right: Just outside this forest green kitchen is a garden. "The family wanted to bring the green theme indoors," says Dennis Garritty, interior designer of Preston's Interiors in Vancouver. See Buying Guide for details.

PHOTOGRAPHS: ABOVE LEFT, WARNER PHOTOGRAPHY; ABOVE RIGHT, CAROLYN BATES; RIGHT, ROB MELNYCHUK

