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GET PERSONAL

Determine Your Personal Style Preference for Your Kitchen and Bath

North Olmsted, Ohio... Most of us have developed a unique personal style – we know what fashions work for us. But when it comes to decorating or remodeling our homes, particularly our kitchens and bathrooms, style preferences can be harder to pin down.

According to Ginny Long, Moen’s director of online and direct marketing, “Consumers are spending more time – and money – to customize kitchens and bathrooms.” So how can you identify your personal decorating style to incorporate into these rooms?

Long continued, “Consumers tend to decorate their home in one of the following popular style categories: casual, contemporary, traditional and eclectic.”

How Do I Determine My Style?

Which style do you favor? Before decorating your kitchen or bath, the following quiz will help identify the style that suits your personality:

- 1.) **Do you prefer:**
 - A. Shabby Chic, comfortable looks
 - B. Simple, clean lines and geometric shapes
 - C. Ornate designs
 - D. Exotic and unexpected combinations

- 2.) When choosing furniture, you gravitate toward:**
- A. Overstuffed pieces with distressed and crackle finishes
 - B. Light woods, like natural maple
 - C. Leather, cherry wood and dark stains
 - D. Organic pieces, in different prints and colors, from unique locales around the world
- 3.) When you accessorize a room, you most likely choose:**
- A. Items that are old, rustic or have a touch of whimsy that make a room cozy and inviting
 - B. New accessories that are placed sparsely and carefully throughout the room
 - C. Family heirlooms, accented with items you've found at estate sales
 - D. Funky, fun accessories you found everywhere from thrift stores to high-end boutiques
- 4.) Where do you do most of your home shopping:**
- A. Arts and crafts fairs
 - B. A chic, modern home store or trendy mail-order catalog
 - C. Estate sales, auctions and antique shops
 - D. All of the above

If you consistently chose A's, you gravitate toward a casual style, if you chose mostly B's, you prefer a contemporary style. Mostly C's? You're probably more traditional, and D's indicate a taste for eclectic.

Pump Up Your Style

Now that you've identified the style that suits your personality, how will you decorate your kitchen or bath? Need some suggestions? Here are a few to help get you started:

- **Magazines** – Flip through the top remodeling, home and fashion publications to find the latest kitchen and bath design trends and styles such as the most recent countertop finishes, hardware and lighting from interior décor experts.
- **Shopping** – Get inspired by visits to your local home improvement store, furniture store or even a wholesale showroom. One advantage of wholesale showroom shopping is seeing the most innovative and stylish products from today’s top designers and manufacturers. For example, when looking to purchase a new kitchen or bath faucet, wholesale showrooms display many of the latest products with innovative features such as pulldown and pull-out spouts, as well as popular new finishes including oil rubbed bronze, antique bronze and matte black. Showroom consultants can be another great resource and advantage. Also versed in the latest trends, they can be helpful in recommending products to suit your lifestyle.
- **Online** – Search through online magazines, home sites or manufacturers Web sites such as www.showusyourstyle.com for the latest products and to help spark décor ideas. This popular site features the latest trend information as well as a place to share kitchen and bathroom remodeling stories, tips, videos and photos. You can narrow your search by room, style, budget, etc. to get some creative ideas. And, if you’re feeling adventurous with your newly defined style, you can submit you own remodeling story for this years’ “Show Us Your Style” contest sponsored by Moen Incorporated (beginning August 1, 2008 and ending October 19, 2008) for a grand-prize package worth \$10,000; or cast your vote for your favorite finalist (Please see www.showusyourstyle.com for a complete list of rules and regulations).

“Remember,” says Long, “Just because you prefer a certain style, you can still mix and match *and* have fun. The point is to get personal and create a kitchen or bath that says *you*.”

For more information on the 5th annual “Show Us Your Style” contest, visit www.showusyourstyle.com or call 1-800-BUY-MOEN (1-800-289-6636).

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Moen offers stylish and affordable [kitchen faucets](#), [bathroom faucets](#), [shower heads](#), and [stainless steel sinks](#) for residential and commercial applications. Moen is part of Fortune Brands, Inc. (NYSE: FO, www.fortunebrands.com), a leading consumer brands company.