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5 Inexpensive Ways to Revitalize a Kitchen

Here are some quick, affordable ways to give your kitchen an update:

- **Replace the flooring.** Install laminate floor over old linoleum, vinyl, or chipped tile. It costs just \$1 to \$5 a square foot and looks like wood, stone, or tile.
- **Replace the lighting.** A new ceiling fixture costs less than \$100 and will brighten up the place. Adding some under-the-cabinet lights will illuminate work surfaces.
- **Give the cabinets a new life.** A coat of paint and new knobs is the cheapest way to go. If you're able to spend \$4,000 to \$6,000 on the project, hire a refacing company to replace the doors and drawer-fronts.
- **Refinish the appliances.** For a few hundred dollars, an appliance refinisher will re-enamel your stove, refrigerator, and dishwasher door in the color of your choice, including a stainless steel look-alike.
- **Update the backsplash.** Replace the space between your cabinets and the countertop with fashionable stone or inexpensive wallpaper.

Source: Money, Josh Garskof (07/01/07)

