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HOME IMPROVEMENTS: A NEW KITCHEN? Beating the credit crunch

If moving house is out of the question, it may be time for a revamp instead and among the top choices for home improvements with added value is a kitchen makeover.

Bold colours and individual finishing touches – creating a kitchen that is right for your personal needs and wants – are key to latest looks.

It is a trend that leading Leicester kitchens specialist, Dewhirst, underlines, with stunning displays at the city centre showroom showing stylish installations at competitive prices.

Currently on offer is a superb value, kitchen revamp package, designed to beat the credit crunch, at £5,999.

Planned to fit a large, L-shaped kitchen, the German-manufactured Hacker Classic range comes in a comprehensive choice of 14 matt colours, three high-gloss finishes, 14 timber tones and four country styles. There is a selection of 29 differ-

ent handles and 200 worktops, with soft-close doors and drawers fitted as standard. The offer also includes Neff appliances, Franke sink and tap.

Dewhirst's Granby Street showroom consistently shows off the best in current design. Sleek, contemporary styling, featuring high gloss lacquers and timber veneers, combined with precision manufacture, remain a top design choice in the German-designed Systemat range, while a resurgence of artisan looks with a modern twist is reflected in high quality ranges by Stoneham.

Pared-down contemporary kitchen design makes a major trend statement in clever, handle-less drawers and a brilliant white gloss finish, fast becoming the current style icon. Subtle-toned glossy finishes are also popular in cappuccino and magnolia shades, while tiling takes a back seat to upstands and splashbacks in metal or glass.

An independent family firm, Dewhirst is rated among the UK's finest independent kitchen specialists in The Guardi-

an's 2008 Interiors Directory and is leading appliance manufacturer Neff's master partner in Leicester.

Dewhirst has been a leading member of the Kitchen Bathroom Bedroom Specialists Association (KBSA) for more than 25 years and the firm's free consumer Care Plus Plan provides sound insurance protection.

KBSA members are dedicated to upholding the association's high standards of design, supply, installation and customer service. The KBSA's new Trustmark status underlines this service excellence. Dewhirst director, Damian Dewhirst, is delighted to be carrying Trustmark accreditation:

"People need to know that they are dealing with a reputable company and the KBSA badge offers the confidence they need to invest in a new kitchen.

"During a period of economic uncertainty, consumers will be even more concerned that their outlay in home improvement is safe and that means KBSA members like Dewhirst are a reliable choice for



QUALITY KITCHEN: Check out what Dewhirst can offer

product, value and service." The full Dewhirst planning and installation service includes expert design and fitting.

For further information, call Dewhirst on 0116 2555745, or visit the website at:

www.dewhirstkitchens.co.uk

Preparing your home for festive celebrations

DARE WE whisper it? Christmas is coming and it's time to add a little sparkle to your home while the going is good.

Money might be tight, but with three months' countdown to Santa's arrival, this may be your best time to plan essential home makeovers.

A fresh coat of emulsion could freshen up your living space, or you may be looking for a new carpet, curtains or sofa to welcome Christmas visitors over the threshold.

If guests are coming to stay, a new sofa-bed or futon may be your choice. And you might not

be able to fit your extended family around the dining table.

Your analogue TV might be on the blink, blanking out Christmas specials, or your hi-fi woefully under power to blast out party favourites.

Whatever your wish list, now is the time to work out how you

will cross off the must-haves and it's worth checking out special offers on new items, as retailers battle for custom against rising costs.

And festive makeovers need not cost the earth when your budget has to stretch far and wide.



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