

HGTV

magazine



Great style for less!

Mini makeovers

Clever DIY projects you can do in minutes

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Fun! Fast! Colorful!

168 ideas to freshen up any room

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A shopper's guide to awesome deals

22 CURB APPEAL BOOSTS

Simple kitchen upgrades



Dos & don'ts from the design stars

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black grout

Yay. A majority love the look, and some of our judges, like *Dear Genevieve's* Genevieve Gorder, have black grout in their own homes. "It shows off the uneven edges of the handmade tiles on my kitchen backsplash," she says. Designer Nate Berkus is a fan of black grout with ceramic subway tile, "but with stone, I prefer white," he says. Our panel also likes interesting-shaped white ceramic tiles, like penny and hex tiles, with black grout.



ceiling fans

It's a tie! "Functionality trumps

beauty here," says Nate Berkus, who equipped the bedrooms in his New York, NY, home with modern black ceiling fans. Tobi Fairley's pick: a fan with clear acrylic blades that fade into the ceiling, like the Quorum International Prizm Collection ceiling fan (\$314, lightingdirect.com). But our panel's naysayers see even the sleekest ceiling fans as detracting from the room.



FAUX FINISHES ON WALLS

Nay. Our judges agree: Sponge painting and finishes meant to resemble natural stone, like marble, look old-fashioned. But subtler finishes, like Venetian plaster, "can be gorgeous if done by an expert," says David Bromstad. If you don't want to splurge, you're better off playing it safe by using wallpaper, grass cloth, or stencils to mimic a faux finish, says Jenny Komenda.

