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If you choose from these features, you'll end up with a kitchen you won't regret thirty minutes or several years later. For an authentic look, NEVER use granite, vinyl, stainless steel, or recessed downlighting.

Cabinets

Case, door, and drawer woods: Douglas fir, heart pine, birch, oak (choose whichever variety was inexpensive in your locale when your house was built.)

Finish: Varnish or shellac; Off-white enamel paint.

Case construction: Face-framed; Edge-glued boards; No toe-kick or a small toe kick

Drawer and door types: Frame and panel type, set flush with the face of the cabinet or with a 3/8" overlay.

Additional storage: Bins (tilt-out or pull-out); Lazy susan; Cooler (vented cabinet).

Hardware

Drawer, hidden: Wooden runners or glides; Undermounted metal glides.

Knobs and pulls: Cupboard Catches; bin pulls; Hexagonal glass knobs; hexagonal glass handles.

Hinges: Surface overlay hinges; ball-tip mortise hinges; Butterfly hinges.

Countertops

Wood with linoleum: Solid board with wood or metal edging; Edge-glued boards with wood or metal edging.

Stone: Soapstone slab; Marble slab.

Metal: Zinc; Porcelain-coated steel.

Backsplashes and Walls

Ceramic tile: Porcelain mosaic (1" hex or other); Porcelain squares (3" or 4"); Subway tile (3" by 6"); 1/2" by 6" feature strip.

Painted beadboard

Painted plaster

Flooring

Wood: Varnished Douglas fir; Heart pine; Maple, other; Painted wood.

Linoleum: Sheet or tiles.

Appliances

Stove/range: Vintage 1900-1950's; Faux vintage (manufacturers such as Elmira, Mueller, Smeg, Klondike, etc.); Simple modern stove.

Refrigerator: Vintage 1920's-1950's; Faux vintage (see stoves for manufacturers); Fully integrated with cabinetry panels; Refrigerator drawers with cabinetry panels.

Dishwasher: Fully-integrated with cabinetry panels; Dish drawers (Fisher & Paykel); Standard dishwasher in cabinet behind a door; Compact dishwasher (Equator, Danby).

Microwave: Any kind, inside a cabinet.

Lighting

Ceiling: Nickel ceiling canopy with schoolhouse or other simple shade; Nickel pendant with simple glass shade; Light bulb on a cord.

Wall: Nickel sconces.

Ventilation

Passive ventilation: Recess in ceiling with vent pipe through roof.

Stove hood: Simple plaster or painted metal or recessed stove hood (Broan requires cabinet over stove).

Fan: Through-the-wall type.

Plumbing

Sinks: Vintage wall-hung, on legs, on cabinets; Tile-in sink- white porcelain over cast iron; Undermount: same as above for stone or wood countertops.

Faucets: Wall-mount- nickel with porcelain or metal lever or cross handles, gooseneck or low neck; Deck-mount- same as above, not common until 1930's.