

RECYCLED RENOVATIONS

TURNING SOMEONE ELSE'S TRASH INTO DRAMATIC RENOVATION TREASURES

BY MARYRUTH PRIEBE

BIOGLASS is made of 100 percent recycled and recyclable glass and sparkles in six luminous colors, including Aquamarine, Emerald Forest, Fossil Amber, Malachite (shown here), Oriental Jade and White Diamond. coveringsetc.com



Throw all the stereotypes you may have about renovating with recycled materials out the window — it doesn't have to be drab or rustic. Home design is seeing a resurgence in repurposed materials, and the results are far from boring or blah.

Take, for example, the newest recycled technologies being used to create stunning bathroom and kitchen countertops, such as countertops fashioned using crushed or jagged pieces of recycled glass bottles floating in a low-VOC (volatile organic compound) suspension. With dozens of colors and textures to choose from, the combinations are nearly endless.

Equally interesting are the cool, modern countertops made from recycled aluminum that would otherwise be burned in postindustrial waste disposal facilities. And if your desire is for something more natural, look into resurfacing your countertop with a nonporous granite, marble or high-end stone solid surface finish. After all, keeping your old countertop from being sent to the landfill is local recycling at its best, and this method is half the price!

Flooring is another prime place to apply recycled content materials in your home renovation. Wood flooring, a timeless flooring material, can be very sustainable if adapted from old wine barrels, barn floors and fallen trees pulled from lake bottoms. Reclaimed and recycled woods come with personality and a sense of history and can add either a rustic or elegant touch to your space.

Fancy a warmer touch for your tootsies? There's a recycled option for carpet lovers as well. Many carpeting companies now have product lines made from recycled materials such as plastic soda bottles and milk jugs.

Like countertops, recycled glass used to create



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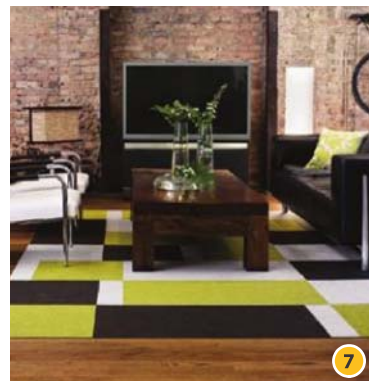
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tiles suitable for flooring as well as for backsplashes and bathroom surfaces. Use recycled glass tiles on your gas fireplace mantel as well, to add a warm, unique feature to your living room or bathroom.

Even something as mundane as insulation can be a little more interesting when it's made from recycled materials. Some brands today make use of postindustrial denim and cotton fibers, while others use recycled newspaper. They perform as well as fiberglass — but without the itch factor.

And recycled architectural pieces make for interesting conversational pieces. From heritage doors to vintage brass knobs to old window frames to ornate columns, one-of-a-kind antiques can provide the distinctive finishing touch you've been looking for. 🔥



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1. Bonded Logic specializes in recycled denim and cotton insulation and is yet another option for receiving LEED credits on your home renovation. bondedlogic.com

2. Universal Floors is a D.C. family-owned and operated business that specializes in reclaiming and refinishing old wood. They've even completed several government building projects. universalfloors.com

3. BIOGLASS is made of 100 percent recycled and recyclable glass and sparkles in six luminous colors, including Aquamarine, Emerald Forest, Fossil Amber, Malachite (shown here), Oriental Jade and White Diamond. coveringsetc.com

4. Granicrete's countertop system is a 1/8" concrete overlay designed to resurface existing countertops (formica, laminate, tile or other solid surfaces). They're created with liquid pigments to achieve numerous different looks and are finished with a clear coat that is heat resistant and scratch resistant. granicrete.com

5. Nu-Wool is made from 100 percent recycled paper, qualifies for LEED and Green Built points, and is made with 10 times less energy than conventional fiberglass insulation. nuwool.com

6. The Brass Knob is a D.C. original, with a wide assortment of architectural antiques including hardware, lighting, mantels, tiles, garden ornaments, doors and more. thebrassknob.com

7. FLOR creates modular carpet squares made from almost 100 percent recycled raw materials, and most meet or exceed the Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label Plus (carpet-rug.org) standard for low-VOC materials. Plus, if the dog happens to have an accident on one of the squares, you can simply swap it out for a new one and return the soiled piece to FLOR for recycling. flor.com

8. Spark Modern Fires can bring warmth and interest to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Their direct vent models run at 80 percent efficiency and can earn you LEED credits as well. sparkfires.com