

Kitchen Counter

RAIL & TILE UPGRADE

A flavorless kitchen doesn't necessarily require a whole new recipe. Spice up the kitchen you have with this tasteful plate rail and backsplash. It's the perfect garnish to an existing post-formed countertop.



If you've lost your taste for your dull, "post-formed" kitchen countertop, you're not alone. This type of countertop, which is characterized by a built-in backsplash and drip edge, has been standard issue in new and remodeled kitchens for years, and for good reason. They're inexpensive, have an all-in-one design that makes them easy to install, and the plastic laminate surface is almost indestructible. The drawback is that they are typically quite bland.

But replacing a post-formed countertop isn't the only way to breathe new life into your kitchen. Just compare the *Before* and *After* photos of this kitchen, and you'll see how it was resuscitated with a new coat of paint and the installation of this wood plate rail and tile backsplash.

The combination plate rail/back-splash can easily be adapted to fit your kitchen. Just use the same wood for the plate rail that your cabinets are made of (oak in my case), and be creative

in selecting the backsplash material. (I used one row of square, "tumbled" tiles with an accent row of rectangular tiles imprinted with leaf silhouettes.)

And don't let the dramatic impact of the project fool you; you should be able to complete this kitchen counter update in about a weekend and only have to order out for one meal.



Although completely functional, this outdated post-formed countertop made for a bland kitchen.