

HANDS ON! INTERIORS

DO-IT-YOURSELF CABINET REFRESH



Tired of looking at our 1990s warm oak kitchen cabinets, we decided to take a page from our new neighbors who, upon moving in, had their cabinets painted instead of replacing them.

There are a few well known cabinet paints, but one that stuck out was Beyond Paint of 'All-In-One' fame: primer and paint in one, lots of colors, and *'no sanding, vacuuming or dusting'*. We were sold.

We chose to lighten up the kitchen and paint the cabinets white, all of them, and that our black and emerald granite would look great against a forest green island. We hoped to be able to paint without removing the cabinet doors, our biggest fear. Spoiler alert: it works for drawer fronts, not the doors. At least there was that.

We cleared out the garage and set up all the utility tables we had. Dixie kiddie cups work great to raise up the doors while on the tables, making it easy to paint the sides as well as the tops. We'd removed all of the cabinet doors, labeling them on the hinges, as we took them down. Four eight-foot tables weren't nearly enough to allow painting all the doors at once. And drying in the garage in August took at least four to five times as long as inside. Each door took two coats of paint on each side, with a couple to several hours to dry in between.



Back inside, we painted from the top of the cabinet frames and bases down to avoid smudging bottom cabinets. We also learned to line our mini paint tray with aluminum foil, allowing us to just toss out of the foil, no tray washing. We also found that wrapping the wet brushes in cling wrap kept the brushes fresh overnight, and avoided that washup chore, as well.

The Beyond Paint product stuck with no issues. Our last task was what to do with the outdated backsplash; we researched stenciling and decided to paint with what we had leftover. We got the stencil from Stencil Revolution, here in Florida, so shipping was speedy. The stencils were a bit of a mess. I did all the whole tiles first (which are far fewer than it looks), stenciling with one blank tile in between to keep from smudging. Then I had to trim a few stencils so I could lay them flat against the tile: I had one for the far left



column of tiles, one for the far right, one for the top row, one for the bottom row, etc.

I used as little paint as possible to keep the 'bleeding' down. I actually lightly loaded a foam roller, and then rolled it on paper towels to leave just a teeny tiny bit of paint on the roller. Still it bled a little, paint not perfectly filled in but I consider this part of the look.

As for paint, I just used the paint I already had. Also, Beyond Paint recommends 30 days to cure for very light cleaning' and 70 days for full curing. So it all takes some patience.

- JENN MITCHELL

