

# HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

## Energy Matters When You Remodel

(NAPSA)—For a kitchen remodeling project that really pays off, it's a good idea to cook up some energy savings.

“Selecting ENERGY STAR qualified appliances over others can save you money—especially over the lifetime of the products,” said Marsha Penhaker of the U.S. Department of Energy. Savings vary with utility rates, but, she adds “the savings are even greater when compared to 10-year-old models.”

Here's a look at highly efficient products that you may care to consider for your kitchen:

- **Refrigerators.** If your refrigerator was manufactured before 1990, it uses more energy than any other major appliances in the house (except an old washer). An ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerator uses less electricity per year than a 75-watt light bulb. Replacing a 10-year-old refrigerator could cut your electricity bill by \$25 to \$60 a year.

- **Dishwashers.** Models more than 10 years old are energy and water hogs. Replacing them with an ENERGY STAR model could mean \$30-a-year in savings. Most qualified dishwashers have internal waterheaters so you can turn down the thermostat on your home's heater and still get the dishes clean. You not only save money, you reduce the risk of scalds in the kitchen or bath.

- **Windows.** ENERGY STAR win-



**Dollar signs might be a suitable pattern for kitchen remodelers who use energy-efficient appliances.**

dows block the heat in the summer and keep the house warmer in winter. Special UV coating protects your furniture and accessories from sunlight damage.

- **Compact Fluorescent Lights** provide warm inviting light and use about a third of the energy of standard incandescent bulbs. Each can save up to \$6 a year for every 75-watt bulb you replace.

- **Fans.** Proper ventilation can keep you cool and save you money. Qualified ceiling fans move the air at least 15 percent more efficiently than regular fans and also use more efficient lighting. When lighting is considered, qualified ceiling fans can save you \$13 to \$24 a year.

You can learn more online at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).