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# At Home with Home Equity Builders

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## HEB To Share Their Expertise With Fellow Remodelers

HEB will be attending a Remodelers Advantage case study this September to offer their experience and expertise to a fellow Remodelers Advantage member. The goal of the case study is to help the owner identify their strengths and uncover their weaknesses in order to improve their company. Remodelers Advantage, which HEB is an active member of, is a networking organization that helps remodelers from across the country share their experiences on what works and what doesn't in the remodeling industry.

## Tips for Selecting a Faucet

When replacing a bathroom or kitchen faucet, you'll probably consider if a traditional or contemporary style compliments your room and how much you want to spend. But there are also other options to consider.

### Handle Style

There are single and dual handle models. The single-handle model allows you to adjust the water flow and temperature with just one hand. Faucets with two handles generally provide more design flexibility and more precise temperature adjustment. This model also allows you to select a handle style, such as a cross handle or the lever handle which is easiest for children and older adults to use.

### Finish

The finish and color of the faucet should coordinate with the décor of the kitchen or bath. While chrome and brass (and even combinations of the two) are popular, other choices include stainless steel, enamel-coated colors, ceramic, pewter, nickel, gold, platinum and bronze. You can also choose brushed or polished finishes.



### **Spout Style**

The spout style should be determined by the function of the faucet and the size of the sink. A high-arc or waterfall spout works well in a large kitchen sink for filling pots and washing large pans. It would also be convenient for hand washing in a bathroom sink, but would cause more splashing and may be too overpowering in size for a typical bathroom. Pull-out spouts are also very popular, especially for the kitchen.

### **Faucet Construction**

The reliability and durability of a faucet is determined by its valve quality, with the best having solid brass, brass-based metal or corrosion-resistant workings. In fact, installing a name brand, high quality faucet can be less expensive than buying a cheaper model and having to replace it sooner. (However, be cautious of stores that sell name brand models that look like the original, but are made with an inferior quality.) Compression-valve faucets, which use washers, or several types of washer-less faucets, are very reliable and can be maintenance-free.

### **Scald Protection**

Anti-scald features that are available include safety devices that restrict how far a hot water handle can be turned, valves that balance the hot or cold water pressure, and thermostats that maintain a pre-selected water temperature.

### **Added Features**

Many manufacturers offer additional special features that can customize your faucet to personal preferences, including pull-out spray wands, instant hot water dispensers, soap and lotion dispensers and the newest innovation for the home, the hands-free electronic faucet.

## **This month's home maintenance tip:**

### **Inspect Bathroom for Crumbling Grout or Loose Caulk.**

Grout and Caulk are applied to prevent water from leaking into your wall or under your floor. When they are deteriorating, leaking water can cause significant damage to your home. It should be repaired or replaced as soon as possible.



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Home Equity Builders, Inc. is a full service design/build remodeling firm, specializing in kitchen and bath design, additions, and custom projects.

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