Maine Homes

YOUR LIFE LIVED WELL FALL 2020





Antimicrobial Surfaces

Designers expect to incorporate more inherently antimicrobial materials, such as quartz, copper, and porcelain tile, into kitchens and baths in the coming year, with large tiles that minimize hard-to-clean grout lines holding particular appeal. In the latter category, Lindsay Jolin, assistant manager at Portland's Old Port Specialty Tile, loves Akdo's new-to-the-United States Tradition series porcelain tile. With whopping 4-by-9-foot pieces resembling marble slabs, it creates a luxurious look on floors, fireplace surrounds, countertops, backsplashes, and shower walls, but "can withstand heavy-duty cleaners and scrubbing," she says. From \$12/square foot. oldporttile.com





Outdoor Fabrics Indoors

Technological advances in the durable, solutiondyed acrylic fabrics previously reserved for patio furniture have rendered them softer

and more suitable for use on sofas and chairs indoors, says designer Angela Ballard, of Boothbay- and Portland-based Knickerbocker Group. "In Maine, we need fabrics in our homes that stand up to our outdoor lifestyles, and these provide peace of mind, especially with the sensitivity to cleanliness during the pandemic," she says, noting that they can be spot cleaned with dish soap, a bleach-and-water mixture, or household cleaners. Bonus: all-weather materials resist liquid, making them less likely to mold or mildew. Thibaut Landmark fabric in Sadie, from \$132/yard. covebykg.com

Backyard Pools

Between camp closures, reduced capacity at beaches, and (gah!) sharks in Maine waters, interest in backyard pools soared last summer, says Sue Geyer, vice president of Falmouth's Ledgewater Pools, who saw inquiries increase 500 percent and sales jump 60 percent. "The only reason it isn't more is because we can't get the product fast enough," she says. More broadly, Swimply, the Airbnb of backyard pools (which, alas, does not yet have locations in Maine), reported a 2,000 percent jump in bookings and revenue over the summer, and Instagram and Pinterest have fueled a surge in adorable DIY pools constructed from pallets and livestock tanks. Another option for those with small yards is a plunge pool, says Ted Carter, of Buxton's Ted Carter Inspired Landscapes. Averaging 10 by 16 feet and priced up to forty percent less than a full-size, in-ground pool, "they're a nice compromise, while still giving you a peaceful destination in the landscape," he says.

