

specs

Rotating sockets

Cumbersome plug-mounted transformers like those on cell phones and hair dryers sometimes make it difficult for two appliances to share an outlet. Wall outlets from 360 Electrical are the clever solution. With plug receptacles that rotate 360 degrees, these outlets will adjust to fit two oversize plugs. The outlets, which maintain power while being turned, are standard residential size and have conventional 15-amp, 125-volt receptacles. They're available in white, almond, ivory, and black at hardware stores and home centers.

(www.360electrical.com, 801-364-4900)



Really clean counters

At first people said that wood countertops harbored germs, then it was thought that, in fact, wood was less conducive than other materials to bacterial growth. Now the debate about the cleanest countertop may finally be over. Silestone quartz-composite countertop materials are impregnated with Microban, an antimicrobial compound that is effective against most common bacteria, yeasts, molds, and fungi that cause stains and

odors. Because the compound is built in during the manufacturing process and becomes part of the molecular structure of Silestone, it will not wash off or wear away. This is not to say that you can leave your countertops heaped with raw chicken all day—daily cleaning is still recommended—but the antimicrobial compound will inhibit the growth of bacteria. (www.silestoneusa.com, 866-268-6837)

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