

'We created a show-stopping kitchen for under £1,300'

By updating the existing kitchen with statement green paint, patterned tiles and savvy finds, **Emma Forrest** got her dream scheme at a low cost



BEFORE

Soon after Emma Maginnis and her husband, Dave, had their second son, they decided to move locally to a bigger family home with a south-facing garden. 'They discovered this property for sale, which was familiar to Emma. 'I grew-up nearby and remembered the house being built when I was a teenager,' she recalls. 'It had instant wow-factor, with a big hallway, a huge garden backing onto a park and a kitchen extension with an island, which was always the dream.'

Decorated in silver and grey throughout and not to the couple's liking, they began by painting the entrance hall once they moved in. 'For the first time I went bold with a dark green paint,' says Emma. 'The results were so good we began thinking about using green in the kitchen.'

THE PROJECT

A major plus point of the kitchen was the layout and storage, as well as the real wood

STEP INSIDE...

WHO LIVES HERE? I'm Emma Maginnis, 36 (on Instagram @thegirlwiththegreenhall), and I'm a make-up artist. I live here with my husband, Dave, 36, a yacht engineer and our sons, Callum, eight, and Mikey, five. We moved into our four-bedroom, 1990s, detached house in Dunfermline in June 2018.

WHAT WAS UPDATED? We painted the kitchen cupboards green and changed the handles; we also added tiles for texture and pattern.

WHY THE CHANGE? The wood cupboards looked drab, the walls were grubby and the chrome fittings weren't really me.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE? A few months. Dave works away in 10-week blocks and I needed his help, as it's not easy doing it by yourself with two young boys!

TOTAL COST **£1,275**



'I really wanted rattan bar stools but they were too expensive, so I was delighted to find these three for only £200 on Facebook Marketplace,' says Emma. 'I try to buy second-hand as much as possible'

DIY ideas

Give your kitchen a revamp for less, like Emma, with these tips

1. As paint is a low-cost way to update a kitchen, you can afford to experiment with a bold colour. I'd already used green elsewhere in the house so knew I loved it, and using different shades of the same colour throughout helps to tie my whole house together.
2. Tile the base of an existing island – we could've just painted ours to match the units, but wanted to add some pattern, so chose to tile it instead with a classic design. Try tiling just a small area like this in a patterned tile, and the rest in cheaper plain tiles, to add pattern on a budget.
3. Don't be afraid to change ideas midway through – the original pastel shade I painted the walls didn't give this room the cosy vibe I wanted, so I repainted in a warm tan colour, which I'm much happier with, and it didn't cost me too much either.

EYE-CATCHING UPDATE

The large chrome extractor didn't work with the new scheme, so Dave took it apart and Emma spray-painted the surfaces gold to work better with the décor

Emma and Dave kept their old kitchen and updated the look with a shade of green in a self-priming, self-sealing, wipeable paint. 'Green is bold and calming and changes tones in the sunlight,' says Emma

cupboards being in good working order. There was plenty of space in the extended living area, which had double doors leading out onto decking. However, Emma wanted to brighten up the dull, open-plan room, add warmth and give it a much more homely feel, so she decided to paint the cupboards and walls, rather than spending on replacing the whole kitchen.

After painting the hall green, Emma set up an interiors Instagram account to match: @thegirlwiththegreenhall. While browsing for ideas, seeing bright kitchens boosted her confidence to press on with painting hers green. 'I love the colour so much, probably because I love plants and nature,' she says. 'My cousin had been upcycling furniture with Frenchie paint and when I heard that Frenchie doesn't need primer or a topcoat,



The faux plant display was inspired by a restaurant and made for the gap at the top of the cupboards by a local florist. 'I sent a photo of our kitchen to Poppy Floral Design with measurements and they made this for me,' Emma explains



PLANT CARE
Emma uses the Planta app to keep track of when she needs to water her plants. Type in the names and an alert will tell you when it's time!

I was sold. Luckily, I really liked the shade Victory Lane.'

WHAT WE DID

Lockdown was the push Emma needed to get started, as Dave – who usually works abroad for a couple of months at a time – was staying home. He removed all 35 of the doors and drawers, and Emma washed them down with liquid sugar soap to remove dirt and grease. After a light sand, she applied two coats of paint with a brush and used a microfibre roller for a smooth finish. 'I could have rolled every coat, which would have been quicker but used more paint,' she explains. 'A flat foundation brush was the perfect size for the edges.'

With the cupboards finished, Dave fitted new brass handles, plug sockets and changed the tap to gold. The decorator painted the walls peach pink, but Emma felt that the kitchen wasn't quite finished yet.

HIGHS & LOWS

Despite all the work they'd done, Emma felt like it was missing something, so asked her tiler to add a textured splashback. 'I wanted green tiles, but everyone kept saying it would look too much with the cupboards,' she says. 'I kept being drawn back to green and I'm glad I did as I love the look and design.'



The bamboo blinds were custom-made to fit and work with the bamboo furniture. 'Small details were really important to bring the kitchen together,' says Emma. 'Rattan, bamboo, brass and black look lovely with green'

The West German vase came from a vintage shop. 'I love this design and I often see things like this on my Instagram feed,' Emma says, 'which takes me to Etsy shops where I find other vintage pieces'

Tiles on the island followed, and then Emma had a change of heart about the peach walls, deciding that they were too pastel and redecorating in a warm, light-coffee colour instead. 'Overall, the project took far longer than we had planned, particularly with Dave working away again,' Emma explains. 'In hindsight, I didn't need to take the doors

off to paint them, and I'd only do two coats on the inside.'

THE FINAL DETAILS

The cosy wall colour completed the homely feel Emma craved while complementing the bold green cupboards and bamboo furniture. Of course, she added plenty of greenery to

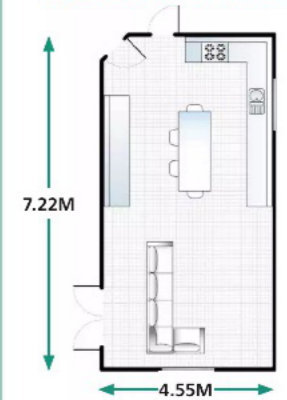
finish the scheme, and zoned off the living space with a large, vintage-look rug.

Emma can't believe what they managed to do with the space without fitting a whole new kitchen. 'Our room is bright, colourful and completely transformed,' says Emma. It's amazing what you can achieve on a small budget with a bit of hard work.' 🌿



Emma fitted a curtain pole to the ceiling so she could hang plants above the window for a boho vibe. She's painted the window frame and radiator in Frenchic's Blackjack to tie in with the black accessories in the kitchen

ROOM PLAN



THE DETAILS

PAINT	£99
TILES	£336
HANDLES	£350
TAP	£290
BAR STOOLS	£200
TOTAL	£1,275

SHOPPING LIST

Cupboards painted in **Victory Lane Al Fresco**, £21.95 per 750ml, Frenchic Paint. Walls painted in **Toasted Teacake**, £54 per 2.5L, Graham & Brown. **Watt T-bar brass handles**, £11.95 each, Plank Hardware. **Fez Ivy splashback tiles**, £31.05 per box, Porcelain Superstore. **Berkeley Essence Eden tiles**, £14.87 per tile, Topos Tiles. **Clearwater Rosetta single lever pull-out mixer and cold filtered water brushed brass tap**, £279.99, Tap Warehouse. **Gold double plug sockets**, £32.99 each, Dowsing & Reynolds. For similar bar stools, try **Pax rattan bar stools**, £119 each, Dunelm. For similar brick tiles, try **Michigan Ochre rustic brick-effect tiles**, £34.94 per sq m, Victoria Plumbing. For a similar side table, try **Pasadena side table**, £65, Habitat. For a similar bamboo shelf try **Durance corner bamboo shelf**, £53.99, Wayfair. **Luna chaise sofa** in **lumino Forest**, £2,729, Sterling Home. **Hendesi Heriz Sage rug**, £359, Ruggable. **Bamboo floral pendant light**, £95, Tin Design. **Rust-Oleum's Universal metallic Pure Gold spray paint**, £12.99, B&Q. **Faux plant display**, £150, Poppy Floral Design.

3 OF THE BEST... natural accents

- 1 **£18 from Habitat**
Try that new recipe without spilling on your tablet with this stylish cane stand.
- 2 **£15 from Dunelm**
Swap a classic glass fruit bowl for a woven tray to add a little texture to a sleek island.
- 3 **£65 from Heavenly Homes and Gardens**
Display plants on bamboo stands to bring a retro twist to your scheme.

