room service

Is it more than heat that's keeping you out of your kitchen? **Make over the space** for next to nothing.

1
ESTIMATED COST
less than $10

2
ESTIMATED COST
$15-$22

ESTIMATED COST
$0
(use leftover paint!)

3

1 focus on the eyesores

People who complain about their kitchens tend to make a stink about their garbage cans. Since you can't get rid of it, give it a cool new look with decorative, sticky contact paper. Wrap a roll around the can and cut it to fit. Bonus: The material is naturally spill-proof!

2 de-flare your fridge

Magnets and hanging papers create an instant mess (and we know how much time you spend by the fridge). Convert the back of a cabinet door into a display area instead, says James Young, host of DIY Network's new show *I Hate My Kitchen*. Just paint it with magnetic primer (sold at hardware stores), so magnets can stick out of sight. "You can even paint over it with a color you like."

3 fake architecture with paint

Coloring the walls would obviously be a way to add interest, but focusing on smaller areas is a far easier (and quicker) route, Young says. Paint a diamond or another fun shape on your ceiling around overhead lights or a chandelier. Use paint tape to mark off the space, and keep the color between the lines. —JENNIFER CHEN

PHOTOGRAPH BY LUCAS ZAREBINSKI; PROP STYLING BY SARA WACKSMAN.