

Trading in the garish for simplistic elegance

Six weeks ago, the Gardners were still making trips to and from their laundry room to retrieve clean dishes and stack dirty ones in their dishwasher.

But now, with the help of the Trade Team, the Cockle Bay family finally has the dishwasher right where it belongs: the kitchen. William and Debbie Gardner bought the house more than a year ago for its stunning view and prime location when they moved up with their two teenage sons from Hawke's Bay.

But along with the house came some compromises. Bright garish colours such as yellow, purple, red, pink, green, and blue were recurring themes in the house along with a host of other problems.

The kitchen was bright yellow and wooden, Debbie says. "Everything was yellow — yellow windows, yellow tiles — it was disgusting!"

Not only was it not the most eye-pleasing of kitchens, it made no ergonomic sense. "There was a unit that protruded out, and we would constantly smash our heads into it.

"Not to mention the dishwasher was in the laundry room so we and our dishes have done quite a fair bit of mileage — not ideal."

There were also four doors that linked the kitchen, laundry room and

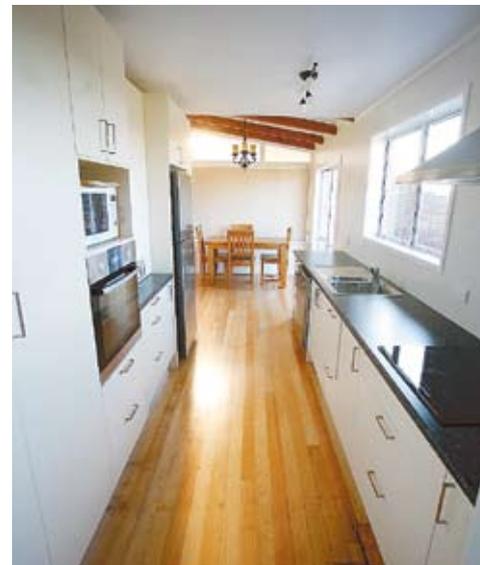


bathroom, something Debbie could never understand.

Even the floor was not right. "It was dirty and black when it was supposed to be a white lino. I scrubbed and scrubbed but none of it would come off!" Debbie says.

The bathroom was also splashed in colour, and there was a cramped shower box that could barely fit one person, let alone a grown man.

Finally, after enduring a year of technicolour torture, William and Debbie spotted an article in the *Times*



about the Trade Team and decided to enquire.

"We had four quotes and they were the best," Debbie says. But above all, was the outstanding service and convenience the Trade Team offered. "They worked perfectly. They were brilliant."

Trade Team owner Mark Higson says: "The aim was to minimise inconvenience and disruption as much as possible. We just did it as quickly as we could.

"We understand it's very difficult when a kitchen and bathroom are stripped out so

I oversee everything to ensure my team follows a seamless sequence."

At all times, the team ensured the Gardners had a usable work surface in the kitchen and chose a kitchen design that maximised storage and space.

More importantly, the Trade Team utilised time well especially as time was something Debbie, a busy working mum, did not have.

"Importantly I didn't have to trek to showrooms — that's what I hate. Mark was the only one who came to me and came to my door. He brought all the samples to me — everything."

Debbie says the work areas were always left immaculate after a day's work and the whole team had been simply wonderful.

The kitchen is now a contemporary, white affair with brand new stainless steel appliances and stainless steel handles to match. The dirty vinyl flooring has been replaced with light and fresh native New Zealand timber.

The bathroom space has been opened up and the glass framed shower is twice the size it was.

Debbie says what she loves most is the kitchen and its new induction hobs.

"I love my induction hobs. They are so different from the old, ugly, white, free-standing electric cooker I had before. I haven't been able to stop cooking, that's how much I love the kitchen now!"

Smitten with their home, the Gardners couldn't have asked for more. So, if, like the Gardners, you have suffered long enough and need some spring transformation in your home call today on: **The Trade Team, phone 533-6248. Mobile 021 764 511. Email: mark@tradeteam.co.nz**