

South Florida Homestyle

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Beautify mirror's image

Every morning, too many of us look into the bathroom mirror and see Plain Jane — the standard frameless builder's mirror. The cost to frame these large mirrors in the traditional manner is too expensive for many of our budgets. (Hey, we would have a custom house if we could afford the custom framing, wouldn't we?)

What we're looking for is a little design Botox to make over our mirrors.

Last year, we told you about MirrorMate, a composite wood frame that ranges in price from \$59-\$269 (www.mirrormate.com). The frames, which attach directly to the surface of your mirror, are custom cut to cover clips and hide the mirror edge.

Five years ago, we told you about Mirr.Edge's decorative acrylic strips

that were designed to hide the unsightly black edges that develop as the mirror ages. A kit to fix a 30-by-36-inch mirror costs about \$33. (Available in all Home Depots and Lowe's in the mirror department and at www.homedepot.com.)

Now the same folks who brought us Mirr.Edge have come up with another inexpensive option — a polymer that mimics wood and sells for \$39 for up to a 63-by-63-inch mirror.

Corners sell separately (\$8.99 for a package of four). Decorative plates, which can be used as more contemporary corners and to cover seams in mirrors larger than 63 inches, are \$7 for a package of two. Framing material comes in four colors — Regal Birch, Driftwood, Royal Oak and Cherry Walnut.

The brains behind the concept were Stanley Segal, who owns Millennium International Development Corp. in Boca Raton, and his wife, Florence.

"I noticed a trend of bringing more wood into the bathroom," Stanley said as he demonstrated the product for me. "It's

softer and warmer than the acrylic."

Stanley says, although the product looks like wood from a



AFTER: Mirr.Edge polymer strips mimic the look of wood without fear of water damage. **Mirr.Edge photos**



BEFORE:

Over time, bathroom mirrors' edges can become blackened or just plain boring.

distance, it won't peel, chip or rot.

The new polymer product is just as easy to install as the original acrylic. The Segals like to say: "It's as easy as size, score and snap." After figuring out the size, you score the polymer with a box cutter and snap it in two pieces.

"You don't have to be precise," Stanley says. "You can add the decorative corners to cover the edges. We also provide double-faced tape so you can position the corners. A person who is more skilled can miter the corners and not use the corner plates."

Chances are good you may see the new Mirr.Edge product on your next vacation. Hotels are using them to dress up the look and hide deteriorating mirrors. They are also being used in apartments that are converting to condos, Stanley says.

The woodgrain product should be available in two weeks at The Home Depot at 441 and Glades Road in Boca Raton. Or you can order from Millennium International by calling 800-757-2990. View product choices at www.mirredge.com.