



Mirror *will*

Saving the world one bare bathroom mirror at a time, Lisa Hunting proves where there's a will, there's a way. BY KAREN CALLAWAY

When Lisa Hunting moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, almost 12 years ago, she was faced with an unsightly scene many homeowners share: gawking rectangular mirrors in each of her four bathrooms. But unlike most of us who just groan and live with them, the vivacious and creative Lisa decided to take action.

"I had seen a show on television where they framed out one of these 'naked' mirrors," says the self-professed HGTV addict. "I thought, 'There has to be a way for everyone to do this.' I mean, I'm handy, but I don't have that many tools." From Lisa's desire for pretty, finished bathroom mirrors, a thriving enterprise named MirrorMate was born. The company, based in Charlotte, fills a long-needed decorating void.

Existing mirrors can be replaced with designer editions, but removing them can be a nightmare and even dangerous—especially if they are glued to the wall. Then, there is the additional problem of disposal. MirrorMate

allows homeowners to avoid the dual dilemmas and work with what they already have in place. The frames are made of medium-density fiberboard, a very strong and durable product often used to make bookshelves. Using top-quality materials like these made by highly reputable American manufacturers, such as Atlanta-based Larson-Juhl, Lisa's company cuts framing pieces from measurements supplied by the purchaser and ships a custom kit. In the business's signature "20-Minute Mirror Makeover," the homeowner assembles four "legs" and attaches the frame directly to the mirror. *Voilà!* Instant chic.

The product works on all mirrors, whether they run right into a corner, sit on the backsplash, or clip from both the top and bottom. Everything needed to accomplish the transformation is included in the MirrorMate kit. The rewards are immediate and the results quite stunning. In place of the plain, run-of-the-mill mirror now stands a beautiful custom-made model that would look right at home in an art gallery. "They are made like real picture



Truly quick and easy to assemble, special frames transform your bare bathroom mirrors into beautiful works of art in a matter of minutes.

frames," says Lisa. "Our frames look like a free-hanging framed mirror, even from the side."

Charlotte-based designer Will Smith, a season-two contestant on HGTV's *Design Star*, serves as spokesperson for MirrorMate and finds that the product is a fabulous addition to his design tools. "I used MirrorMate for the first time in a client's home in South Charlotte and was amazed with how easy it was to install," says the man known for his warm colors and eco-friendly style. "It gave the bathroom an instant look of opulence."

Lisa had long admired Will's work, and when it was suggested that MirrorMate should have a spokesman, she said, "I know who I want, and he's right here in Charlotte!" She sees his endorsement as a natural fit for this environmentally aware company. Recycling is routine at MirrorMate, and little is wasted. To that

end, they've introduced a new product line made from leftover materials. Christened Pizzazz Mirror Squares and designed to be used in groupings, these small framed mirrors come in two sizes and over 35 frame styles. Imagine the pretty possibilities!

It took the gumption of one talented lady to develop a brilliant solution to an ages-old challenge. The success of the company proves it is the answer to many design-savvy homeowners' dreams. Lisa shrugs off the genius mantle and says simply, "I'm not artistic, but I am creative. I've always wanted my own manufacturing company, and as they say, 'Be careful what you wish for!'"

For information, contact MirrorMate at 866-304-6283 or visit mirrormate.com.