

Decorating with color...

Helpful hints on how to choose the right colors for your kitchen

By JAN ADKINS

Color! color! color! could well be said to be the fashion statement of the '80s. Whether it is fashion in dress or home interior design, color is one of the most important mood and trend setters.

In the home, color unifies the decor, adds accents and heightens the atmosphere. If used properly, it can create specific effects ranging from the sleek, dramatic look of Art Deco, to the Americana mood of Country Calico. The possibilities are as endless as our selections, materials and our imaginations dictate.

One room of the home has increasingly gained more popularity as the hub and center of family activity—the kitchen. With the continuing boom of remodeling in the kitchen sector, more and more consumers are becoming involved in choosing the styles, materials and colors that will suit them and their lifestyles.

As the kitchen area also has started to expand beyond the traditional four-wall

enclosure into the living and dining rooms so, too, has the selection of a color scheme to complement all these areas evolved to greater importance.

Color in the kitchen can be beautifully introduced with laminate-clad cabinets in a variety of styles and extensive selection of colors, patterns and textures. Regardless of your choice, you can be assured of easy care and maintenance, and of long-lasting beauty.

Nevamar Corporation offers consumers a broad choice of materials including a variety of today's most popular solid color laminates, subtle patterns, Geometric™ Grid and Line dimensionals, life-like woodgrains and lovely stone looks.

Even more unique are the flexible grooved surfaces called tambours from their Contours Collection™, or the stylish metal look of the Pure Metals™ Collection. All textured finish solids feature ARP Surface™ for superior scuff and abrasion resistance.

Particularly for high traffic areas such as countertops, ARP Surface keeps

counters looking new longer, at no additional cost, and comes in a selection of 71 solid colors and 15 patterns.

Except for the floor, no surface in the home gets as heavily used as the kitchen countertop; therefore, the material used should be as strong and as durable as possible.

A versatile and fashionable surfacing material, laminate by Nevamar Corporation can complement any style of color scheme.

Choosing a color palette and/or pattern for your kitchen can involve many different considerations. Certainly, kitchen size is a good place to start, and will indicate how prominent a color is likely to appear.

Kitchen cabinets, with their high visibility and eye-catching appeal, will set the entire feeling of the interior by their color, style and materials.

If the kitchen is a part of a greater area (i.e. no surrounding walls) it will be necessary to take note of the colors used in adjacent rooms so that color chaos won't

result. Although style in the '80s has moved to the eclectic, too great a divergence in style is likely to offend the eye.

Therefore, it is a good idea to maintain a compatible flow of color and style throughout.

If the kitchen area is smaller, a unified, light neutral color scheme will give the illusion of pushing the cabinetry into the walls and making the space look larger. Light accent pieces such as pastel accessories will add interest and still maintain a light and airy appearance.

Another factor in choosing color for the kitchen is the amount of anticipated activity in the area, which will help make choices more obvious. For example, if children will be spending a good amount of time in this room, a more informal selection of materials and tones should be considered.

A textured finish or pattern would be more effective in stretching in-between cleanup times, if busy little hands were actively opening and closing cabinet


doors. Choosing bold colors or heavy-handedness in color placement could eventually overwhelm the senses and tire the eye.

Although red is considered a good color to stimulate appetite, it can also cause excitement, which might not be suitable for mothers with active children or, indeed, anyone with an already hectic lifestyle.

A more soothing choice in the pastel range or a neutral would create better atmosphere, if appropriate.

Generally, it is recommended that more neutral tones be used in the kitchen area to avoid tiring the eye or taste level too quickly. Although there certainly are dramatic kitchens done entirely in black and red, for instance, these are in the minority and are not used routinely.

However, choosing a neutral color for the kitchen need not be a "boring" choice or a limiting one. Punctures of color can be added throughout a kitchen effectively and dramatically.




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