

Many ways to bring colour to the kitchen

The kitchen is such a busy space with so many jobs to do. As the hub of the home it is important that you feel happy and industrious here. When setting up a kitchen from scratch, there are a mind-boggling number of elements to consider, from floor to ceiling, backsplashes, cabinets, counters and the major appliances. Whether you are starting from scratch or embarking on a facelift, begin with lots of research. Scour the internet, mags, books, stores (and other people's homes) for ideas and inspiration.

Until the budget allows for a full do-over, a fresh paint colour offers myriad opportunities to build the mood you dream of and it's an easy fix. For nature lovers, bring the palette of the natural world inside with shades of green. Choose a gray/green for walls and cabinetry to produce a peaceful mood. For a more pronounced effect, leave upper cabinets light and paint the cabinets below the counter and island in mid to dark green tones.

If your kitchen is dominated by chrome appliances and dark cabinets, bring relief with a bold colour choice on the walls. Shown here from Farrow and Ball is a striking paint effect that runs above the cabinetry. The ceiling is a warm shade of pink. A surprising flash of



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orange on the upper walls shows off a random pattern of brush and roller strokes contrasting Farrow and Ball's Charlotte's Locks with white. A medium sheen highlights the crown mouldings.

Open shelves have become a popular option for kitchens. The lack of cabinet doors, especially on the upper walls, opens up the space, provides easy access to crockery and adds interest to the walls. In this kitchen by Benjamin Moore an infusion the colour of cherry wine brings a clear focal point to the

neutral whites and wood. A lighter shade of the saturated tone on the island counter is picked up on the painted stool. Following the colour, a few counter accessories and a bowl of fruit keep your eye moving. If the kitchen is open to living area, bring one of the colours into the kitchen to connect the spaces.

A small dose of colour can make a big statement in the kitchen. Why not do a little experimentation. Paint up a piece of Bristol board or plywood and lean it up against the wall or backsplash. (You can do the same with tiles or patterns that you aren't sure of.) Live with the new colour for a week and you'll know if it suits.

For a final bold touch, check out the latest bright hues available in small appliances. I've spotted a royal blue cast iron braiser for slow cooking weekend meals, retro style kettles in crimson, bright yellow baking dishes and copper coloured mixers. Always have fun with colour.

Written by Debbie Travis and Barbara Dingle. Please email decorating questions to house2home@debbietravis.com. Follow Debbie at [instagram.com/debbie_travis](https://www.instagram.com/debbie_travis), [facebook.com/thedebbietravis](https://www.facebook.com/thedebbietravis), [debbietravis.com](https://www.facebook.com/debbietravis).



How to create a gallery wall in your home

A well-executed gallery wall can be a stunning focal point in almost any room. Follow this guide to create your own collection of photos and prints.

1. Choose a theme. Sticking to a theme will give your gallery wall cohesion. Select a colour scheme or a specific type of image to display.

2. Select the right wall. Choose a wall that has enough space to accommodate what you want to display without

crowding the images.

3. Pick your frames. Opt for identical frames to make an impact, or go for a more eclectic look with frames of different sizes and shapes — just be sure they go together by choosing frames that are the same colour.

4. Try it out. Before you start hammering nails into the wall, lay out your frames on the floor to make sure you like the arrangement of your chosen images.

5. Hang the pictures. To ensure you place your nails in the right places, make paper cut-outs of each frame, mark where the nails should go, then tape the cut-outs to the wall. When it's perfect, hammer nails right through each piece of paper directly into the wall.

In addition to being a striking focal point in the room it's hung, your gallery wall is a great place to display your favourite pictures and personal mementos. (NPT)

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