

KITCHEN COLOURS

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Several years ago kitchens were getting splashes of vibrant colour, with reds, blues and other bright hues in high lacquer dominating trends, especially those that leaned toward more of a minimalist, contemporary design. While colour continues to be popular in kitchens today, the current emphasis is more on contrasting colours as well as materials which provide an esthetically pleasing and balanced look.

Instead of primary colours, think more pastels mixed with brushed metals and warm woods.

"Colour for sure is very 'in,' but more pale colours, like pinks and soft blues or greens," said Isabelle Dion, president of District Cuisine in St-Lambert.

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colour on just a small buffet, the coffee section of the space, or on a small island. It's more about adding accents of colour than overwhelming the room with one or two main hues."



Wood tones play an increasingly popular role in today's kitchen decor. PHOTO COURTESY OF DISTRICT CUISINE



Pale colours, like the soft blue shade shown here, are a current trend in kitchen decor. PHOTO COURTESY OF CUISINES VERDUN

Dion recently worked on a modern white kitchen where she infused the space with natural wood to add "colour." The neutrality

was offset by dabs of pastels, like a pale green stool and small wood accents.

"We'll do kitchens with three colours or materials — such as white acrylic, pale walnut, and light pink, for example," she said. "Pale countertops are very trendy, and there's been a big movement toward marble imitations, where the colour of the vein gives the surface real personality."

Backsplashes are also a great area in which some colour can be added to this utilitarian room.

Darker coloured kitchens are also on-point and, once again, designers are using wood elements to tone down the starkness of these spaces.

"We're starting to leave the white kitchens behind and go toward dark greys and even black finishes," said Martin St-Amour, general manager at Cuisines Verdun. "Then we mix in wood details, like walnut or refurbished oak. The integration of these natural materials tends to be a bit lighter and balance the space."

Monochromatic finishes are part of the kitchen trends as well, from

"white glossy lacquer finishes to white kitchens in matte finishes," St-Amour said.

The gentle tones of wood or even the pastels hues that are seeping into today's cuisines help to keep these kitchens looking soft and inviting.

For those who are a bit too intimidated to add colour to their kitchen in a permanent way but are drawn to the idea of some joie de vivre in their kitchens, so-called "removable" details can boast bright colours and be easily switched out. Coloured dishes that show through glass or opaque cupboard doors add some visual vibrancy, as does wall art or even accessories like vases or serving dishes that are on display.

Kitchens have abandoned starkness in favour of colour, whether it be a pastel peach coffee station integrated into a high-gloss white space, or wood panelling that is used to create balance in a charcoal grey kitchen.

The key is to add just enough colour to catch the eye, but not so much that the room looks too busy and overwhelming.

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