



MAKE A splash!

Adding colour, texture and flair, a splashback will accentuate your kitchen's look. Explore the latest splashback trends and styles

WORDS JOCASTA BRONWASSER

Design solution 1: Tiles

Ranging vastly in shape, colour and size, tiles add texture and mood to your kitchen. "We see 100mm x 100mm tiles in older country-style kitchens but more common are the larger white 600mm x 600mm," says John Cunningham of Danish Kitchens. Check out ceramic and glass mosaics for an alternative to plain glass and avoid streaks by opting for a satin, matte, low-sheen or semi-polished, lappato-finish (metallic look) tile. Tiles can be matched to floor and wall surfaces; you

can even use silver mosaics to complement stainless-steel appliances.

Expect to pay: Tiles can suit every budget, ranging from \$30/sqm for standard ceramics to \$500/sqm for glass mosaics. A 3-metre tile splashback will range in price from \$400 to \$800, including labour.

Top tip: Choose larger tiles behind the cooktop and use a dark grout colour or colour sealer for subtlety, as grout can go mouldy with age and is difficult to clean. >



Design solution 2: Glass

A reflective glass splashback has two main advantages: "There are no joins and the glass can be matched to any colour," says Michael Kitchener of Kitcheners Kitchens. Interior designer Amanda Browne of @Browne Interiors recommends Starphire glass for a clear, neutral colour base rather than regular toughened glass, which has a pale green tinge (this effect can be beautiful, but will obviously influence your colour selection). Large panels create more opportunity to enhance your kitchen's personality – be creative by displaying wallpaper or art behind the glass. A frosted, matte finish will disguise smudges and fingerprints. For a splashback behind a wet area, try high-gloss acrylic panels like Zenolite – visit www.zenolite.com.au.

Expect to pay: Glass starts from \$400/sqm to \$800/sqm, depending on the finish and installation costs. Be aware of extra costs such as having power points installed and rangehoods fitted.

Top tip: "Use neutrals for long-lasting appeal," says Amanda. For real wow factor, a well-chosen accent colour will brighten the space. Glass will take two to four weeks to be measured, cut and installed.

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Design solution 3: Mirrors

Just like glass, mirror needs to be toughened for use near heat. "Mirrors reflect the view behind you, which is a good way of creating the illusion of space, particularly if you have no window in the kitchen," says Renae Barrass of Austin Design Associates. For contemporary kitchens, mirrors reflect smooth finishes and elongate the space. For old-world glamour, try an acid-etched or antique-look mirror.

Expect to pay: Toughened mirror ranges from \$400 to \$500/sqm.

Top tip: Grey or black mirrors look slick and better disguise stains. "Both look fabulous with black 2-pac or black veneer cabinetry," says Amanda Browne of @Browne Interiors.



Design solution 4: Natural stone

Best known for the rivulets of colour that run through its earthy surfaces, natural stone – such as marble, granite and quartz – will add luxury, refinement and class to your kitchen, complementing both traditional and contemporary design. "Calacutta looks fabulous," says Amanda Browne. Adds Michael Kitchener: "Use a stone that either matches your benchtop, or introduce a contrasting stone as a highlight."

Expect to pay: Stone ranges from \$300 to \$900/sqm, depending on what type of stone you choose. To cut costs, Amanda suggests compromising with a slightly cheaper composite benchtop teamed with a stone splashback.

Top tip: If the splashback edges are exposed, recess the slab into the wall. Look after your investment and maintain its pristine beauty by instantly wiping away food stains.

Design solution 5: Corian

"Corian is a solid acrylic material that can be shaped and welded to give the illusion of bending around corners, curving up from your benchtop to your splashback," says Michael. If you want to refresh your kitchen without replacing it, Corian can be placed over your existing splashback. For a seamless finish, team your splashback with a Corian benchtop. Corian can be buffed to look new again, even after years of use.

Expect to pay: A 600mm high Corian splashback costs from \$400/linear metre, including installation.

Top tip: When matching surfaces, install a tile cove – a curved edge that sits flush where the splashback and benchtop meet – for fluidity of design and a complete look. >



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Design solution 6: Stainless steel

Stainless steel harmonises a kitchen's myriad finishes, blending seamlessly with modern or rustic looks. Michael Kitchener of Kitcheners Kitchens believes the successful transition of stainless steel from the industrial to domestic realm has to do with its excellent stain-, heat- and water-resistant qualities. Continuous lengths provide a seamless finish that is extremely durable for a clean working area.

Expect to pay: From \$750/lineal metre. Companies such as Smeg sell stainless-steel wall plates to match their appliances: \$299/600mm x 650mm, \$399/900 x 650mm.

Top tip: White vinegar is the cheapest and most effective way of cleaning stainless steel. Team a stainless-steel splashback with wood and wood veneers to avoid a clinical look.

Splashback to the future

Now established as the hub of the home, kitchens are experiencing a splashback decoration revolution. Here are some of the latest trends...

1. Kif & Katast botanical designs for splashbacks are graphic in nature, and are applied to the reverse side of frosted Starphire glass. "The compositions and colours can be customised to enable flexibility and individuality," says Kif & Katast's Katherine Brennan. "They act as a feature but are softened by the frosted finish, which enables the design to be sensitive to adjacent elements in the space." Visit www.kifandkatast.com.au for details.
2. Consider your view and embrace natural light with a window wall.

"A window as a splashback brings the garden in and gives the cook a pleasant outlook," says interior designer Amanda Browne. If the splashback is behind the cooktop, be sure to use a non-combustible material, such as aluminium, for the window frame.

3. Make your splashback work harder as a stylish yet practical whiteboard. "We use Dulux White on White behind Starphire, which provides the perfect surface for messages, recipes and quotes," says Amanda. **R&R**



1.



2.

1. Customised splashback, from \$2000, Kif & Katast.
2. Back the prep zone onto a window for an open, natural splashback.
3. Starphire glass, from \$440/sqm, R&R Glass Services.



3.