

Ask the experts

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Q: My kitchen isn't large and I don't have much room for a bin. What would you recommend I install and how easy is it to retrofit these items?

A: Gary Cahoon from Häfele says, "Finding space for a kitchen bin without creating an eyesore or wasting valuable space is a common problem. Häfele Australia offers a variety of bins for behind hinged doors. For example, undersink pull-out waste bins can be fitted behind hinged doors and plumbing fixtures. The bins are available with double- or triple-bin inserts, allowing you the option to separate rubbish from recycling. Retrofitting the undersink pull-out bins is quick and easy, by simply screwing to the cabinet base or side walls."

Q: I'd really like to add a splash of colour to my new kitchen but I don't want to go overboard. What would be the best way to do this without overwhelming the space?

A: Michael Kitchener from Kitchener's Kitchens says, "There are a number of ways to introduce a splash of colour into a new kitchen. One is to design a two-tone kitchen. For example, you could introduce coloured, open-shelf units or framed-glass door or wall units into a simple, white, high-gloss, polyurethane kitchen for a touch of colour that's stylish without being overwhelming. Glass splashbacks and feature tiles are also a great option and very popular for people wanting to give a new twist to an old kitchen without spending a lot of money. Both splashbacks and tiles come in a range of colours and patterns, and you could choose anything from a subtle pastel to a vibrant red with a vast number of options between. Often overlooked are the door handles. It's not something a lot of people pay attention to when designing a space, but a well-chosen handle can make a subtle difference. The colour of your new kickboard (the board that goes between all your base cabinetry and the floor) is an important decision as this can create a contrast against the door colour and your choice of flooring. The three main options are black, matching the material to the doors or brushed aluminium to tie in with the handles and appliances. As you can see, there are several ways to introduce a splash of colour and an experienced kitchen designer can advise you every step of the way".

Q: I really need to renovate my bathroom but I don't know where to start. What would you recommend as my first step?

A: Mario Arcidiacono, Managing Director for BIGA Ltd, says, "While it is possible to organise your own bathroom renovation, bathrooms are notoriously complicated and can require up to seven different tradespeople. Therefore, it is highly advisable to begin with a quote from a reputable renovator. You



HÄFELE PULL-OUT BINS MAKE EASY WORK OF SORTING GENERAL RUBBISH FROM RECYCLING



"GLASS SPLASHBACKS AND FEATURE TILES ARE A GREAT WAY TO INTRODUCE A SPLASH OF COLOUR" MICHAEL KITCHENER.

should check that your renovator has a current contractor's licence (this can be verified with the Dept of Fair Trading) and is preferably associated with a professional body such as HIA. Before beginning your renovation, you will also need a list of PC items. These

are all the items that go into your bathroom such as tiles, taps, toilets etc. As the available choice is huge, any BIGA store Australia-wide will be happy to help you in-store to choose items that will suit your budget and assist you in avoiding potential problems".