

KITCHEN DESIGN AND RENOVATION GUIDE





Renovating your kitchen is an exciting and often daunting prospect, especially if you've never renovated before. This guide covers 8 key steps to help you create your perfect kitchen and simplify your renovation journey. Whether you're stuck on planning, budgeting, choosing a professional, functionality, styling, colours, appliances or installation – we cover a variety of tips and check lists to help you start enjoying your new kitchen in no time.

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Front cover: Benchtop and splashback in essastone French Black. Upper storage cabinets in Laminex CrystalGloss® Crystal Diamond. Return bench and lower storage cabinets in Laminex FSC® certified Timber Veneer Alluvial Oak. **Opposite page:** Island benchtop in Laminex Jordan Stone Spark finish with island base and shelves in Laminex Battalion. Rear benchtop in Laminex Fresh Snow Spark finish and base cupboard doors and panels in Laminex Bleached Wenge Riven finish. Overhead cupboards in Laminex Sassi. Splashback and rangehood surround in Laminex Metaline® Nimbus Metallic. **Opposite page inset:** Island bench and sink recess in essastone French Black. **This page above left:** Benchtop and end panel in Laminex 180fx Silver Travertine. Cabinetry in Laminex CrystalGloss Fossil with Laminex Handles (935367) on doors and Laminex Handles (935367) on drawers. **Above middle:** Benchtop in Laminex Freestyle Curve Snow Storm. Cabinets in Laminex CrystalGloss Seductive Limba. Splashback in Laminex Metaline Palladium Perle. **Above right:** Shelving in Formica Cinnamon Ash. Cupboard door in Formica Malibu.

STEP

1

PLAN, PLAN, PLAN



PLANNING MAKES PERFECT

A kitchen is the heart of the home; it's a warm, vibrant hub that buzzes with activity beyond just the preparation of food. It is increasingly becoming the focal point of the house, an expression of your personal style. Entertaining friends and family, supervising homework, enjoying a morning coffee – its importance to everyday living means it makes good sense to give it careful consideration. On average, Australians keep their kitchens for approximately 15 years – a long time if you don't love the end result.

Why are you renovating?

The first question you should ask yourself is: what is your motivation for renovating your kitchen?

IS IT FUNCTIONALITY?

Maybe there is inadequate bench, stove or storage space. Or do you want your kitchen to flow into an outdoor or entertainment space?

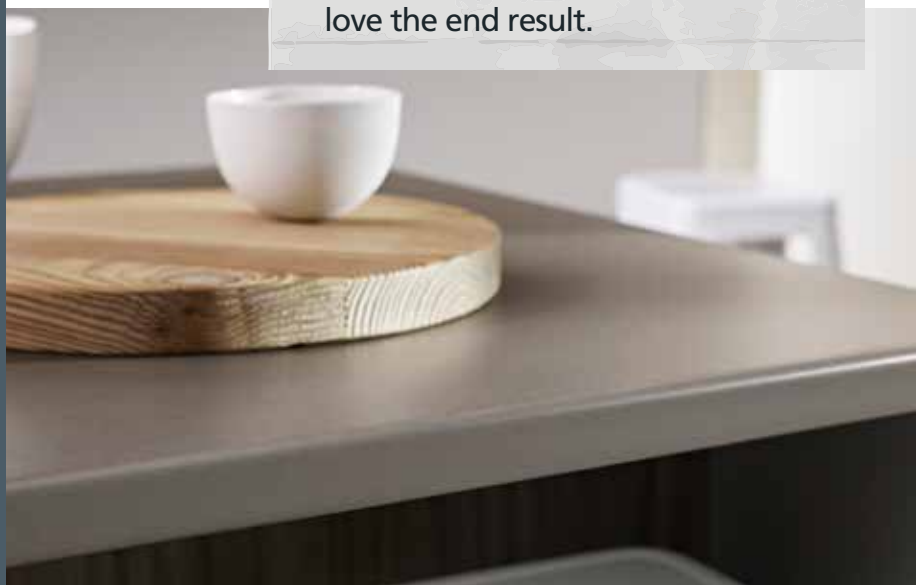
IS IT STYLE?

Maybe you want to update the look of your kitchen with a new benchtop, cabinetry, splashback, colours or appliances.

IS IT VALUE?

Maybe you want to add value to your home for resale in the future.

Your reason may be one or all of these, and each will have a different effect on your renovation.



Top left: Main benchtop in Laminex Alpaca. Upper and lower cupboard doors and drawers in Laminex Chalky Teak. Oven surround in Laminex Hydra Mesh. Feature wall in Laminex Fusion Customart. Coffee table in Laminex Hakata. **Above:** Benchtop in Laminex Squareform Moose and island bench insert in Laminex Lustrous Elm.

TIP Kitchens are no longer a separate entity from the rest of the house. Remember to consider the design of the connecting rooms so it becomes part of one harmonious whole.



Your new kitchen's must-haves

Now's the time to figure out your essentials. You might not have all the answers regarding how it will look and work, details can come later, you just need some broad ideas. Things to consider include:

- What kind of benchtops do you want?
- Is your existing space enough or do you need more?
- How much storage space do you need?
- Would more stove or sink space make your kitchen easier to use?
- Will you replace your appliances?
- Do you have initial layout ideas?
- How about style and design preferences?
- Does your family eat at a dining table or could a breakfast bar be an alternative?
- What bin system would best suit your family?



Top: Benchtop in Laminex Freestyle Curve Snow Storm. Splashback in Laminex Metaline Palladium Perle. **Above:** Benchtop in Laminex Freestyle Curve Snow Storm with Laminex CrystalGloss Seductive Limba front panel. Splashback in Laminex Metaline Palladium Perle.



GET INSPIRED

Don't forget the fun part. This is when you can let your imagination run wild with lots of style research. So jump online, peruse plenty of home magazines, the Laminex and Formica websites, Pinterest or Facebook, plus, visit local kitchen showrooms and appliance suppliers in your area. You'll be amazed how quickly the beginnings of your new kitchen will take shape in your mind. Taking notes and collecting images along the way will spark ideas for your initial discussions with a professional kitchen designer or cabinetmaker.

STEP

2

SET A BUDGET



Make the kitchen of your dreams a reality

It's easy to get caught up in the excitement of planning and skip over the costs which can stack up if you're unprepared. It's important to set a clear and achievable budget for your project early and stick to it as much as possible. Once you have this set, you can go about everything else.

Finding the magic number

When you have a rough idea of what you want done and what you have to spend, talk to the professionals. They'll help you see whether your goals are achievable against the budget you have set. Remember to obtain a few quotes in the process as prices can vary. Hiring a professional designer and fabricator will help you effectively plan and ultimately achieve your desired result within budget, but remember, kitchens can often cost more than people expect rather than less, so ensure that you consider all the requirements carefully.

SPEND VS SAVE

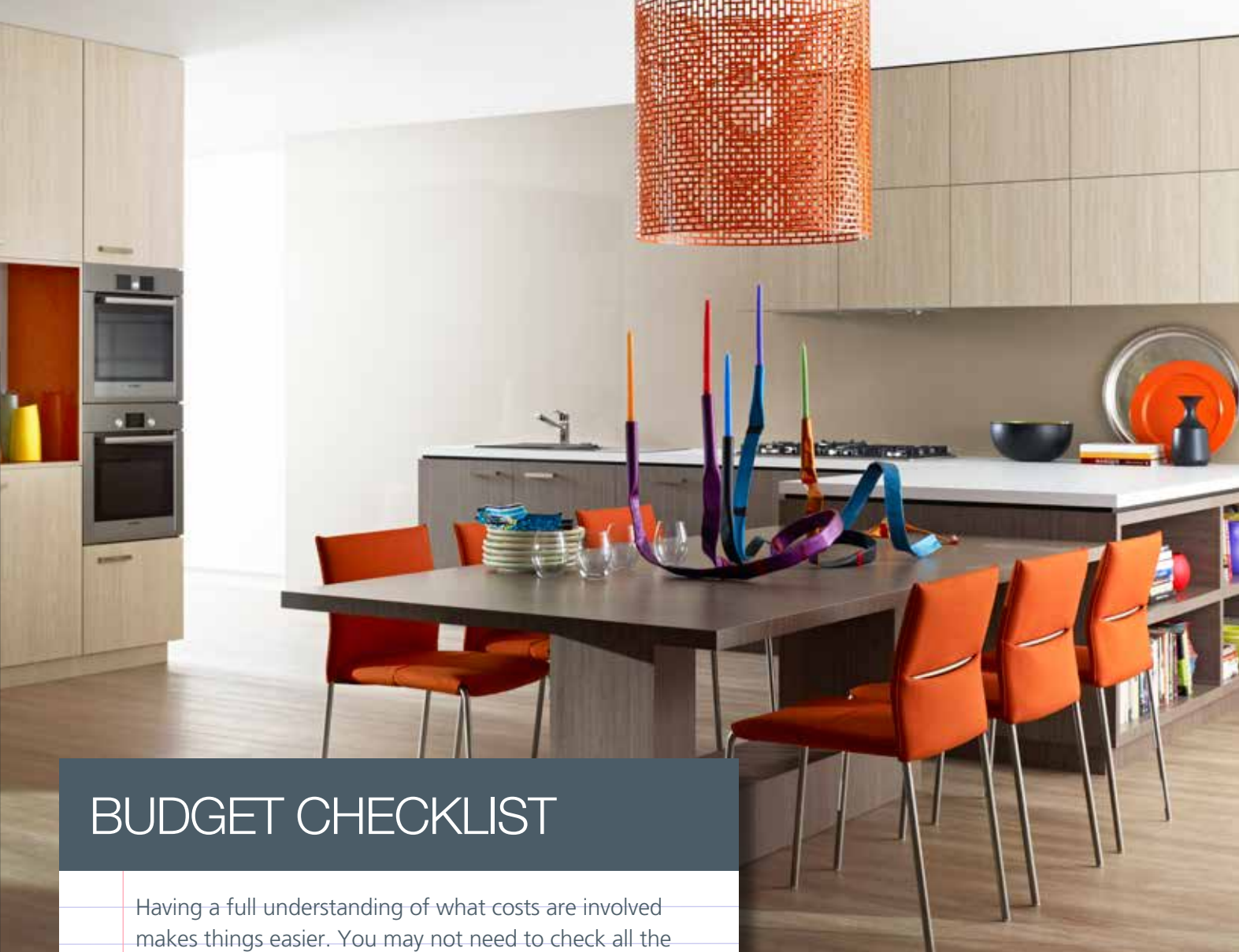
Think about where you need to spend and where you need to save. For example, professional installation may cost a little more, but in the long run it will save you from the errors of poor workmanship. Also, if you have your heart set on a more expensive benchtop option, choosing doors such as melamine provide a good cost-saving alternative to other options such as 2-pack paint or timber.

Here are three simple ways to save:

- Are there kitchen appliances, fixtures or accessories you can pick up to save on delivery?
- Ask your kitchen designer or cabinet maker about current special offers
- Don't replace kitchen items that are in good condition, for example, do you need to replace your appliances? Can you keep the frame of your existing cabinetry?



Above: Benchtop and end panel in Laminex 180fx Slate Sequoia. Cabinets in Laminex CrystalGloss Fossil with Laminex Handles (935367) on doors and Laminex Handles (935367) on drawers. Right: Doors in Formica Vinyl Doors (Bevelled Edge profile) Warm White. End panels and island bench insert in Formica Gloss Panels Warm White. Benchtops in Formica Cast Concrete. Pantry and upper cupboards in Formica Hotham Oak.



BUDGET CHECKLIST

Having a full understanding of what costs are involved makes things easier. You may not need to check all the boxes, but they're good as a guide. Ask your supplier which components are included in the scope of work.

- Design consultation**
- Project documentation**
- Demolition**
- Rubbish removal**
- Cabinetry installation**
- Carpenter**
- Electrician**
- Plumber**
- Plasterer**
- Tiler**
- Flooring**
- Lighting**
- Appliances**
- Benchtops**
- Splashback**

TIP Add a buffer to your budget to cover any unforeseen expenses.



Above top: Table and base cabinets in Laminex Jericho. Rear benchtop in Laminex Impressions Polar White Spark finish. Overhead cupboard doors, pantry and fridge doors in Laminex Contour Finedge Whitewashed Oak. Splashback in Laminex Metaline Smoked Silver Perle. Alcove in Laminex DiamondGloss Jalapeno. **Above:** Benchtop in Laminex Freestyle Arctic White.

STEP

3

CHOOSE A PROFESSIONAL

The difference between fine and fabulous

As calm as a kitchen seems, there's a lot going on behind its smooth surfaces. That's why there are benefits to engaging a team of specialists and skilled tradespeople to carry out the work. Mistakes and poor DIY workmanship not only can spoil the look of your new kitchen, they can also cause major structural problems in the future which are costly to fix and generally not covered under product warranties. A quality kitchen designer, cabinetmaker or supplier can advise you on the latest technology, trends, fixtures, fittings, finishes and accessories – helping you bring your vision to life in the best way possible.

TIP Does the builder specialise in kitchens? In terms of getting the fine details right, it's best that they do.

If you're not sure of anything, ask. What is the warranty agreement? Do you understand if the price can be varied and how? Is there a start date and a guaranteed finish date? Be sure of all these details before signing anything.

HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT ONE

You might only be committed to your kitchen supplier or suppliers for a matter of weeks, but you're committed to their work for years, so deciding which one to go with is an important consideration. Here are some questions to ask your prospective suppliers:

DO YOU

- Have the correct licence or are you registered to carry out the work you are doing?
- Use contracts that offer me legal protection under the states' home building laws?
- Adhere to a code of ethics and practice Worksafe standards?
- Carry the correct insurances to safeguard your building work?
- Can you provide photos of your previous work and referrals?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, you should keep looking to ensure you get the results you deserve. You can check if a builder's registered by calling **1300 815 127**.

STEP
4

FOCUS ON FUNCTION



Make it work for you

Picture yourself in your shiny new kitchen, cooking a meal for some friends. How does it feel? Does the journey from the cupboard to the preparation area seem smooth? Is there room to put the dishes somewhere while you join your friends at the table? These kinds of questions are exactly the kind to ask now. Because ultimately, this step will define how efficiently your kitchen works.

TIP Use the same material for the kickboards as your cabinetry for a seamless effect.

Above and left: Front Benchtop in Fusion Design Source Cantata_02. Back benchtop in Laminex Peacestone. Upper cupboards in Laminex ColourTech Peacock. Lower cupboards in Laminex ColourTech Pumice. Splashback in Laminex Metaline Diamond Ice. Cabinetry and shelves in Laminex Colour Palette Tanganyka.

STEP 4

FOCUS ON FUNCTION

GET IN THE ZONE

No matter how big or small, a kitchen can be divided into five zones to make it more ergonomic.

CONSUMABLE ZONE

Used to store consumable goods – the items that are used for cooking which are replenished regularly. These include chilled and unchilled foodstuffs, so the fridge, freezer and pantry are part of this zone.

NON-CONSUMABLE ZONE

For items used on a daily basis – kitchen utensils, cutlery, dishes, and glasses. Often-used dishes should be stored in lower pull-outs instead of overhead wall cabinets.

CLEANING ZONE

Made up of the sink, waste bin, cleaning materials, and the dishwasher. Using an under-sink pull-out drawer makes efficient use of valuable kitchen storage space.

PREPARATION ZONE

All food is prepared here, and utensils and small cooking appliances are stored and used in this zone. Pantry items that are commonly used for preparing meals can also be stored here.

COOKING ZONE

The heart of the kitchen is centred around the cooktop, oven, rangehood and microwave. Using deep pull-outs with higher back wall and closed sides allows for bulky item storage, such as pots, pans and cookbooks.



Also, think about what height you're storing frequently used items, less frequently used items and infrequently used items. Frequently used items should be stored around the benchtop height, less frequently used items directly above or below those, and infrequently used items can be stored on top of cabinets, or in the bottom drawer.

As you are likely to be living with your kitchen for a long time, consider the age and mobility of your household. Will it still be convenient to reach up/bend down in 10 years time? Plan your cupboard layout with a view to the future.

Above: Island benchtop in Laminex Colour Palette Moose and panels in Laminex Silk Finish Moose. Rear benchtop and raised island benchtop in Laminex Freestyle Arctic White. Cupboards and doors in Laminex Silk Finish Zincworks with matching gloss ABS edging. Oven unit in Laminex Designed Timber Veneers Ironbark Wwave. Overhead cupboards in Laminex Aluminium Framed Doors Fineline Access with Rippled Glass Finesse inserts. Rear panels and drawers in Laminex Silk Finish Zincworks with Laminex Handles (935398).

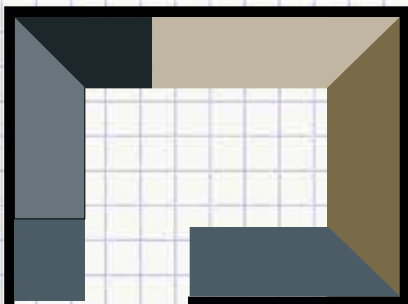
Love a layout

There is a range of layouts you can choose from to suit the shape of your kitchen. A good layout is designed with the kitchen zones in mind – they need to be placed where they relate to the next activity. Correct allocation of the zones will produce a kitchen that is more organised and functional day-to-day.

Is it inclusive? Spending time in the kitchen is necessary but being excluded from the rest of the household is not. Consider tailoring your layout to ensure that the areas you use the most can open out into common areas.

Here are some popular layout shapes.

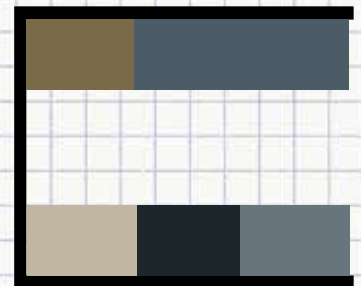
TIP Visit our free virtual planner, designer3D.com.au to start playing with various layouts and colour schemes in the comfort of your own home.



G SHAPE KITCHEN



IN-LINE KITCHEN



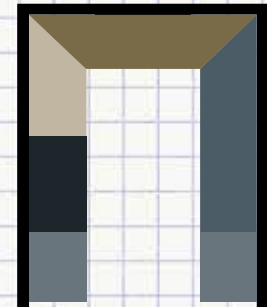
GALLEY KITCHEN



L SHAPE KITCHEN



ISLAND KITCHEN



U SHAPE KITCHEN

STEP

5

CELEBRATE YOUR STYLE

DESIGN TRENDS AND TIPS

Hopefully, you looked for lots of inspiration back at step 1, and you've been gathering some more along the way, because this is where you can let your creativity run wild. Current trends show that kitchens are no longer a separate area, they are part of open plan living spaces that flow into the rest of the house. Consider the style of your home when you're designing your kitchen. It should all feel part of one, big, super-stylish whole.

style profiles

MODERN

Lovers of new kitchen gadgets and technology, haters of clutter who adopt a streamlined look. Modern kitchens tend to feature white, grey and chrome. Dark cabinetry can be a great way to add some contrast. For this look to work, make sure you build in lots of storage space.

VINTAGE

Vintage style is not afraid to use bold colour on cabinets, floors or benchtops. Where modern style might go for LED lighting, vintage would find some 1960s lamps. Op Shops can be a great place to find cutlery and crockery for quirky vintage touches.

RUSTIC

If your idea of relaxing is sitting around a big benchtop, passing the potatoes to your extended family, a more rustic, farm style might be for you. Rough wood cupboards with a natural grain and painted blue and white tiles complete this look.

Of course you may be many or none of these styles. Often there's nothing more beautiful than eclectic taste. So don't be afraid to mix and match – display your grandmother's teacups on a sparse, modern shelf, hang a brightly coloured abstract art piece in a country style kitchen, have fun with it.

Consider technology: iPod docks and TVs are part of many new kitchens.

Wallpaper's also making a comeback – try introducing it in adjoined eating areas though, rather than places with high humidity, like splashbacks.

Left: Upper cupboards in Laminex ColourTech Peacock. Lower cupboards in Laminex ColourTech Pumice. Splashback in Laminex Metaline Diamond Ice.

Efficient lighting such as LED lights, energy and water saving appliances are becoming essential items.



Good design never goes out of fashion

Style and design are not mutually exclusive; in a well-designed kitchen they go hand-in-hand, striking the perfect balance between style and function. Here are some design tips you might like to weave into your kitchen design. Consider mixing finishes – having a combination of unexpected materials creates a warm and welcoming feel rather than a sleek and impersonal one. Make a splash with your splashback; have you considered glass, stainless steel or even brick to add personality to your kitchen?



The use of drawers instead of cupboards gives a streamlined look and better functionality.



If you prefer your workspace being hidden from guests and you have space, a Butler's Pantry might be right for you.

Spotlights are an affordable accessory to generate light in a kitchen while also emphasising features of a kitchen.



Compact appliances, such as an oven, steam oven and microwave can be stacked together or arranged horizontally to save space.



Recessed handles and touch-to-open mechanisms give a sleek finish to cabinetry.

TIP Ergonomic modern kitchen design suggests that the fridge, stove and sink are placed in a triangle within three to six metres.

Small shelves, rails and hanging items, small containers, baskets and knife holders allow you to efficiently use valuable space.

Glossy and light coloured finishes aid in areas with minimal exposure to natural sunlight as they reflect light within the space.

Top right: Main benchtop in Laminex Alpaca. Upper and lower cupboard doors and drawers in Laminex Chalky Teak. Oven surround in Laminex Hydra Mesh. **Above left:** Overhead shelving in Formica Cinnamon Ash. Cupboard doors in Formica Malibu with Formica Magnetic Blackboard. Splashback in Laminex Metaline Silver Stream Perle. Butler's Pantry shelving in Formica Malibu. Benchtop in Formica Grey Finestone and breakfast bar in Formica Cinnamon Ash. **Middle:** Steamer, oven and dishwasher cabinetry in Laminex Domain Nuance finish. **Above left:** Benchtop in Laminex Fresh Snow Spark finish and base cupboard doors and panels in Laminex Bleached Wenge Riven finish. **Right:** Doors in Formica Vinyl Doors (Bevelled Edge profile) Warm White. End panels and island bench insert in Formica Gloss Panels Warm White. Benchtop in Formica Cast Concrete.



STEP 6

COLOUR YOUR KITCHEN

Never underestimate its power

Colour has the power to soothe, comfort, energise or excite. It's one of the most emotional elements of a room. Whether you decide to be bold and take a large area and make it bright, or accent a neutral space with vibrant accessories, colour has a huge impact.



White and off-whites are the most popular colour schemes for kitchens overall, but using grey has increased over the last few years.

A subtle grey splashback will enhance bright colours around it.

TIP When the ceiling is meant to appear the same colour as the wall, the paint should be tinted to 50% the strength of the wall paint.

Dark colours make small spaces seem smaller.

What direction does the room face? Some say you should use cool colours for rooms facing North and cool for those facing South to balance the sun.



Unexpected pops of colour have spilt out of clothing fashion into kitchens – so splash out on some citrus-hued accessories or even neon, we dare you.



Nature conditions us to expect the darkest colour to be at our feet, medium at our eye level and lightest above us.

Top right: Cupboard doors in Laminex Contour Finedge Whitewashed Oak. Splashback in Laminex Metaline Smoked Silver Perle. Alcove in Laminex DiamondGloss Jalapeno. **Above left:** Cupboards and doors in Laminex Silk Finish Zincworks with matching gloss ABS edging. **Above middle:** Cupboard doors in Formica Malibu with Laminex Handles (869976) and Formica Magnetic Blackboard. Benchtop in Formica Grey Finestone and breakfast bar in Formica Cinnamon Ash with Formica Cinnamon Ash panels. **Above right:** Doors in Formica Melamine doors (3mm profile) Idyllic and benchtop in Formica Artemis Stone.

TIP Samples are a great way to ensure you make the right choice in your desired colour, finish and pattern for your kitchen decors. The Laminex Group offer free samples online at formica.com.au, laminex.com.au, essastone.com.au or call our express sample service on 1800 002 240.

Light colours make an area feel more spacious.



For the first time in several years, we are seeing a decline in the use of cherrywood cabinets. Colour palettes are moving away from dark and panelled to light and medium with regards to finishes and veneers.



It may be advisable to choose neutral cabinets and benchtops and use paint and accessories to add colour, as they're easier to change as fashion does.

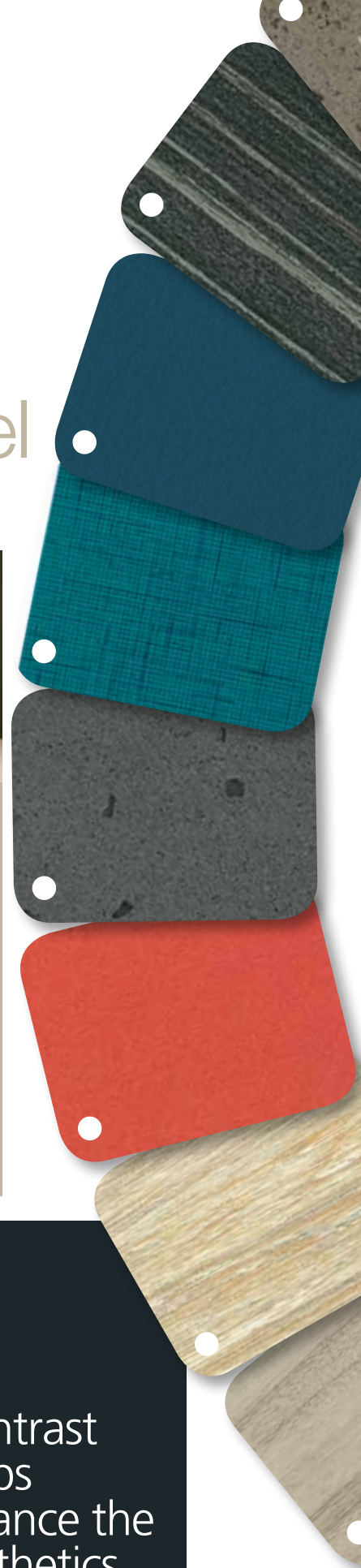
Need drama?
It's all about contrast, so consider:

- Warm and cool**
- Light and dark**
- Bright and dull**
- Smooth and textured**



Contrast helps balance the aesthetics of a space.

Above left: Benchtop in Laminex Impressions Polar White Spark finish. Overhead cupboard doors in Laminex Contour Finedge Whitewashed Oak. Splashback in Laminex Metaline Smoked Silver Perle. **Above right:** Benchtops in Formica Cast Concrete. Pantry and upper cupboards in Formica Hotham Oak. **Above:** Benchtops and splashback in essastone Bone White. Island face in Laminex Innovations Black Riser and cabinetry in Laminex Designed Timber Veneers Como Rigato.



STEP 7

APPLIANCES



TIME TO TURN ON YOUR KITCHEN

Your kitchen might be nearly there, but you won't have much to eat, or eat on, without appliances. Your local retailer's a good place to start looking, and it pays to do some research online and check product comparison sites. But saving a few dollars may be a false economy if you end up with the wrong one. Repairs and inefficient running can end up being costly, so any expert advice or word-of-mouth recommendations are valuable. Even blogs can provide a broad range of first-hand experience.

There's a world of possibilities with varying functionality, quality, reliability, and budget. Use our handy checklist to point you in the right direction.

Choose appliances that can be totally integrated into kitchen cabinetry for an ultra-modern, bespoke feel. Or conversely, you could choose vintage appliances and make a feature out of them.

Above: Benchtops and splashback in essastone Bone White. Island face in Laminex Innovations Black Riser and cabinetry in Laminex Designed Timber Veneers Como Rigato. **Right:** Pantry cupboards in Laminex ColourTech Peacock. Cabinetry and shelves in Laminex Colour Palette Tanganyka.

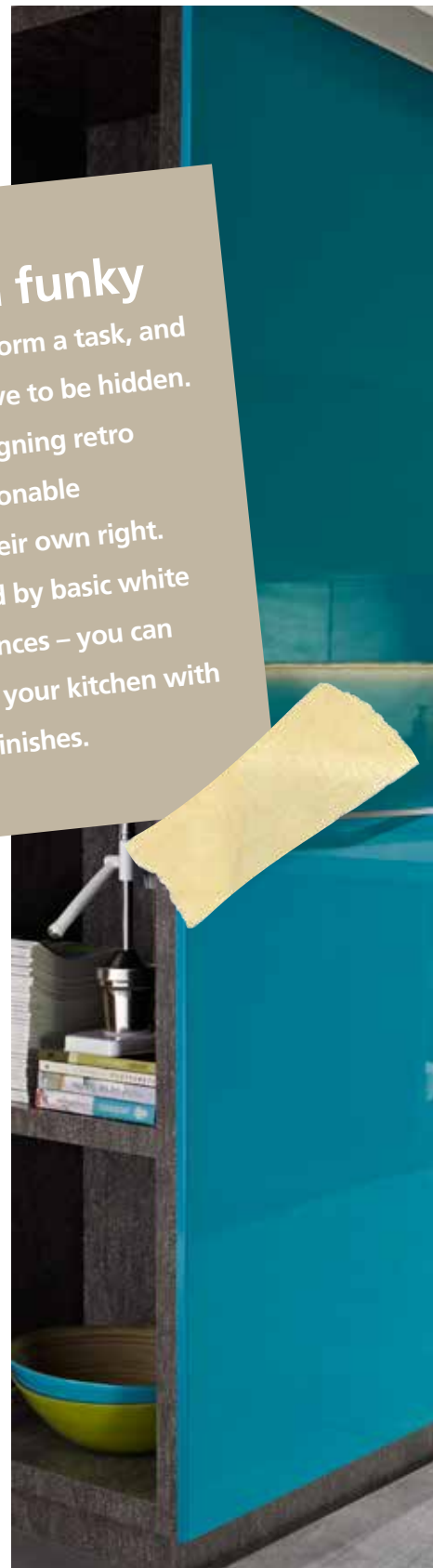
Functional and funky

Appliances don't just perform a task, and they don't necessarily have to be hidden. Plenty of brands are designing retro

appliances that are fashionable kitchen accessories in their own right.

And don't feel restricted by basic white or stainless steel appliances – you can

inject some colour into your kitchen with gorgeous, enamelled finishes.



APPLIANCE CHECKLIST

- integrated free standing
- white stainless coloured

OVEN

- 60cm oven 90cm oven
- wall mounted underbench

COOKTOP

- 60cm 90cm induction
- gas electric

FRIDGE/FREEZER

- single door double door
- side by side pigeon pair
- french door
- water maker ice maker

MICROWAVE

- wall underbench
- stand alone

RANGEHOOD

- slideout canopy integrated

SINK

- top mount undermount
- integrated single bowl
- double bowl

TAP

- single mixer spray head mixer



STEP 8

INSTALLATION



WATCH YOUR KITCHEN COME OFF THE PAGE

If you've chosen to engage a team of specialists rather than doing it yourself, this is where you can let them do what they do best and watch as all your planning and ideas become a real life kitchen. Obviously it can't happen instantly, so be prepared to wait for a number of weeks. Your kitchen supplier may have given you a specific end date or an approximate time frame.

In terms of the steps it'll take before you step into your sparkling new kitchen, here's a guide:

Start cleaning out your kitchen back at step 1 so the installation process can happen as quickly and smoothly as possible.

- Disconnection of existing services
- Removal of existing kitchen materials
- Final measurement check
- Flooring
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Plastering
- Cabinetry installed
- Benchtops installed
- Splashbacks installed
- Painting
- Tiling
- Appliances installed
- Final check, adjustments and clean up
- Start enjoying your new kitchen

Above: Overhead cupboard doors in Laminex Aluminium Framed doors Fineline Access with Rippled Glass Finesse inserts. Benchtop in Laminex Freestyle Arctic White. Oven unit in Laminex Designed Timber Veneers Ironbark Wave. **Opposite page:** Benchtop in Laminex Freestyle Curve Snow Storm with Laminex CrystalGloss Seductive Limba front panel. Cabinets in Laminex CrystalGloss Seductive Limba. Splashback in Laminex Metaline Palladium Perle.

Success!

Congratulations on making it to the other side of the kitchen renovation process.



LIMITED WARRANTIES

To ensure your peace of mind and confidence, products from The Laminex Group come with limited warranties assuring maximum performance and durability, ranging from 7 to 15 years. For specific product warranty periods or terms and conditions, please visit formica.com.au, laminex.com.au or essastone.com.au. For more information on Greenfirst, visit thelaminexgroup.com.au/greenfirst.



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Above left: Benchtop in Formica GlossPlus Café Crema. Overhead cupboards in Formica Gloss Panels Mist Grey. Doors and shelves in Formica Gloss Panels Charred Oak. **Above middle:** Front benchtop in Laminex 180fx Carrera Marble DiamondGloss finish. Back benchtop in Laminex 180fx Carrera Marble Natural finish. Cupboards and drawers in Laminex CrystalGloss Polar White with Laminex Handles (945602). Splashback in Laminex Metaline Palladium Perle. **Above right:** Overhead cupboard doors in Laminex Aluminium Framed doors Finesse Access with Rippled Glass Finesse inserts. Benchtop in Laminex Freestyle Arctic White and base cupboards in Laminex Silk Finish Zincworks with Laminex Handles (935398). Oven unit in Laminex Designed Timber Veneers Ironbark Wave.

For samples or brochures call 1800 002 204. For more information call 132 136 or visit formica.com.au, laminex.com.au, or essastone.com.au

Please see individual product brochures for important information specific to each product. The colours of the products featured within the imagery in this brochure are as close to the respective product range as photographic lighting and modern printing processes allow. To obtain a copy of the terms and conditions of the applicable warranties, simply visit the appropriate website listed above. All warranties are in addition to any rights that may exist under the Australian Consumer Law.

This brochure belongs to a suite of guides created by The Laminex Group. They are designed to provide you with all the inspiration you need to build your ideal space. For more inspiration join us at facebook.com/thelaminexgroupau



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