



8 Ways With Kitchen Cabinetry

Kitchen designer Natalie Du Bois provides expert advice on cabinet materials to help you get it right the first time.

WHEN SELECTING A MATERIAL FOR your kitchen or bathroom cabinetry, the main factor to take into consideration is the overall look you are trying to achieve, and the budget you have to work within.

Don't be scared to mix the finishes up a bit. You might like to have lacquered doors for most of your kitchen and then splurge on a few glass doors to add interest and a sense of light. You might decide to have durable, hardwearing vinyl doors below benchtop height where they usually get bumped around a lot, and then have striking glossy lacquer higher up on your wall cabinets.

Every material on the market has its own unique quality and look that it creates so it is important you talk to the experts to ensure you get the best material for your money and needs.

ABOVE A folded stainless steel drawer is teamed with caramel coloured glass doors within aluminum framing and chocolate stained oak doors. For added ambience the frosted glass cabinet can be lit up at night with hidden LED lighting. **RIGHT** Lacquered panelled doors combine with textured glass wall which provide a hint into what is kept inside to achieve a traditional style kitchen. Both designed by Natalie Du Bois.





ABOVE LEFT Laminex LPL Lustrous Elm cabinetry combined with aluminium-strip drawer and door pulls for a clean lined kitchen designed by Colleen Holder. **ABOVE** Nouveau kitchen cabinets in Bestwood Pavement with Etchlite glass with aluminum frames. from Mitre 10 MEGA. **BELOW** Kitchen designed by Joanne Godding with cupboards in a Resene Spanish White two-pot satin lacquer finish, and wall mounted glass cabinets.

3 Stainless Steel

Stainless steel is a common material in the kitchen and continuing this industrial product from the benchtop to the cabinetry can be extremely effective. If you are after an industrial or commercial look, this is a great material to use. Drawbacks are that they doors will scratch more easily and finger marks will be more obvious, so not ideal for a family kitchen.

BELOW In this kitchen design by Robyn Labb stainless steel cabinetry, by fabricator S J Crosbie, is used to heighten the drama of the space.



ABOVE The 36e8 Cucina kitchen exhibited by Lago at this years Eurocucina in Milan takes kitchen cabinetry to a new level with mix and match units in bright and playful colours.



5 Lacquer

Two-pot lacquer is extremely flexible and every colour or finish is achievable from a smooth satin finish to ultra shiny gloss. Any shape or door detail can be easily constructed from traditional detailed framing to recessed lacquered handles. If you felt daring and opted for a bold colour application you could have it re-sprayed in the future for a totally different cabinetry look!

A gloss application for lacquer is popular at the moment and creates a modern luxurious feel. This gloss application can be completed in various ways. When getting quotes make sure you check what method the cabinet maker will be using.

1 Low Pressure Laminate

Low pressure laminate is by far the most economical material for cabinetry doors as it is quick and easy to construct and as a result is often what you will find in modular kit-set kitchens. The front and back of the door will be finished in a low pressure laminate and the side edges will be edged in Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) or Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) tape, to provide extra resistance in these high wearing areas. Applying ABS or PVC to the edges is optional and cheaper not to do, but note that the door will wear faster and require more maintenance, costing you more in the long run.

2 Vinyl Wrapped

This is a great way to have a seamless cabinet door that is hard wearing at the same time. This type of door is covered in a vinyl sheet that is suctioned onto a moisture resistance Multi Density Fiberboard (MDF). Various finishes are available for the vinyl, from ultra matt to highly polished gloss depending on the look you are wanting to create in your kitchen.



4 Glass

The use of glass will lighten up your kitchen space. Glass doors can be framed by a timber, lacquer or aluminum frame, and the glass can be textured, frosted, clear or coloured. Combining these can create striking statements and focal design points in a kitchen. For those wanting a sleek look there is a new product available which allows your coloured glass door to remain in place without a visual aluminum edge!

RIGHT A kitchen from Ingrid Geldof Design with cabinetry lacquered Resene Oilskin 30% Gloss with an insert of milk glass and a Hardware 2002 66100 handle and a 20mm satin stainless steel bench top with Black honed granite bar, joinery manufactured by Sydenham Joinery.





6 Timber Veneer

We are spoilt for choice with timber veneers in New Zealand. However, like the laminate doors, veneer cabinetry needs to be edged. The most popular choice is to have a 3mm solid timber strip edge; the thicker the edge the more robust the look. Raw veneers are usually lacquered with a clear lacquer that could be finished in various gloss levels depending on the look you are after.

7 Reconstituted Veneer

This is where timber has been pulped and then designed to represent timber. There is also a reconstituted timber out in the market that is pre-finished so no lacquering is required, and this is an extremely hard wearing and durable material.

8 Solid Timber

Solid timber doors are usually planks of timber in a frame. Most cabinet makers would still make the inside panel a veneer piece, not only due to cost, but because solid timber is often affected by moisture and extreme temperature variations which occur in the kitchen.

For more, or help with your new or renovation kitchen, bathroom or interior project contact Natalie Du Bois from Du Bois Design Ltd. International award winning design. Phone 09 529 5526, www.duboisdesign.co.nz

ABOVE Full height timber veneer cupboards in colour Victorian Ash hide away all the bits and pieces in this kitchen designed by Architect Andy Watson. **ABOVE LEFT** Cabinetry made from Bestwood reconstituted veneer in colour Rye with a clear lacquer finish and Gola handles combines utility hardware with a natural material for modern look. **BELOW** Hoop Pine Plywood in a low sheen finish is complemented by stainless steel tops and colourful sliding glass doors. Designed by Andrea Bell from Pete Bossley Architects, and built by Construct Group.

