Episode 41: Kitchen Design Essentials

Cabinetry Materials

https://www.whitepebbleinteriors.com.au/cabinetry-materials/

Hello, and welcome to this new episode of My Forever Home the podcast. Today, we're in episode seven of the Kitchen Design Essential Season, and it's just been such a fabulous season for so many different reasons. I've been getting so many comments on what great information we've been able to provide on this season and which is just so lovely to hear.

Today, I'm going to be talking about cabinetry materials. This is such a big one, for so many different reasons. And I'm actually going to cover seven different materials in this episode. What I'm finding is when people often, come in contact with us, that they're really only aware of maybe one or two materials.

And so that then becomes the go to so rather than really investigating. What's going to be the best material for them it's really what you know is what you're going to seek out. And I suppose this is a, an issue example of just in any component of your home if it's not an area that you're an expert in, what ends up happening is you just go to the Go To product, the one that you know of, the ones your friends we've talked about, and that may not necessarily be the best product for you.

So, anyway, what I'm going to do today is go through seven different materials that you can use for your cabinetry and, and basically just run through the advantages and disadvantages of them give you some awareness of them. So you can make some informed choices. I think the most common ones that people know of are laminate and Two Pack, which of course I'm going to cover off.

And there are lots of advantages to so many, different materials and really it's just working out, what's best for you. You need to be across what these materials compositions are. What's going to be important for you? So do your research. So really how do you choose the right cabinetry materials?

There are so many factors to consider, make sure that what you choose for your home, your forever home kitchen is going to serve you as you need it to. So some of the key things that are, I always

discuss with my clients are things like durability. You know, most people want to invest and get a product that's going to last the aesthetic.

Obviously the way it looks is important. There's a particular look you're trying to create for your kitchen. So that's important. The profiles and the profile mean what's the design of the door. Is it flat? Does it have a shaker style, which is a very simple profile. Does it have, you know, quite a detailed profile, the type of profile that you may be seeking can impact the topic there's material that you can choose from.

And what about the cleaning requirements? This is always a big one. I know one of the things that clients say to us often is, Oh, I don't want it to easily fingerprint. And I see it a lot on the groups as well. That people want a product that's going to be easy to clean. So that's definitely a consideration.

If you're after a very specific colour, that's awesome going to impact the type of material that you can have. you know, if you want to green up or kitchen that might not be available in the, in the, product, that you would like. And so you may need to. Go down the route of choosing another cabinetry material type.

If you've got your heart set on that green Apple kitchen. Yeah. And it's funny because you may laugh about the green Apple, but it definitely was big in the sixties, but I've got a really good friend in Scotland. Yeah. And she was actually renovating her kitchen. When she was pregnant Yes. And she said, I know I shouldn't be doing this now.

I know that I'm going to be skewed by the fact that I'm pregnant and my hormones are all over the place. And I'm probably going to choose all these mad, random colours that I'm going to hate. You know, at the end of all this, and she chose green Apple and, all these, yeah. Years later when she was pregnant, all those many moons ago, over 10 years ago, I actually quite likes her green Apple kitchen.

So the pregnancy must have done good things for her. But, you know, she was very conscious that she might've been doing some loopy things. And then finally, the other thing to think about is your budget. So that will also determine, what's going to be available for you in terms of the materials, that that may be suitable for you in your budget.

Okay, so I'm going to start with number one. And number one is 2 pack, and this is a very well-known product. It's also known as imprint but it is effectively car paint. So it's got a super, super hard surface because it's baked. And, it's available in any colour, which is really big advantage, because if you are off to that green Apple kitchen, and that might not be available in the laminate or other materials, Often you'll need to go down the two pack route, just because you can choose from any paint colour that's available from any brand.

So you've got thousands and thousands of colours to choose from. So if that's something that's really important to you then to pack may actually be the option you'll need to run with. Because that's

super hard surface is, is baked. It won't peel, which is a great advantage. It’s available in lots of different sheen levels.

So your matte, you satin and also you can get a metallic paint. So that might be, know great for some people that may want a bit of bling. There's no edging as the actual paint wraps around the front of the door, and then it wraps seamlessly around the corners. And so, you've got smooth edging it's available in just about any door profile.

And one of the advantages with that is that you'll also get a really tight. Cut into the, the door profile. So any of the mouldings have a really tight edging. So, so that's really nice as well. If you want it really sharp and crisp, that's not necessarily available in other products. And simply because it's painted, it means that they can get those very tight.

Type profiles and crisp edging one of the downsides I find with 2 pack though, is that the edges, can often chip easily, particularly if you're using, a fingerless pool and you may have a bevelled edge, which is available in a two pack, it can chip easily if you knock a sauce pan against it. You know, even though the surface on the front is very, it's hard.

The edging can chip really easily you know, I had a girlfriend who installed a brand new 2 pack kitchen. Yep. Everyone was using two packs, so, yep. I'll use two pack two and I'm within a week she had chips just because of the, that, you know, putting pans and things back into drawers those edges chipped.

So I don't generally specify to pack for family kitchens or where I know there's going to be really hard wear and tear. Clients might actually say to me, look, we're really quite hard on our surfaces. And so they need something super durable. I wouldn't specify to pack in that incidence. So again, this is where we are educating our clients around the advantages and disadvantages of certain materials and why we would suggest one particular material for them over another.

This is where I have a conversation around Two Pack. The next one I'm going to talk about is thermal wrap. This is also known as vinyl wrap, in the days of yore and, you know, it did have, pardon the panel I'll mention that in advance. It did have a bit of a bad wrap back in the eighties and nineties for peeling, particularly close to heated surfaces, and, and heat from stove.

So generally what happened in those days is that the side panels were appealing. And so People sort of went off vinyl slash thermal wrap for those reasons. However, the technology has improved significantly over the years. So what we're seeing in the eighties and nineties has definitely improved significantly.

So it's vacuum sealed really tightly to an MDF or particle board. And I feel that it's just a really, really great durable material. It's definitely my go to. For family kitchens I've used it in family kitchens in my own family kitchens for years and years. And I've never, ever had an issue, never had an issue with anyone that we've spoken for either similar sort of price, point to two pack.

It used to be more cost effective, but now it's sort of pretty much on par with a two pack finish. And it's also available in a multiple, array of dual profiles, however, the edging. So for example, in a shaker style which is very simple. Just square, inside is the profile of the door. It's not as sharp as what to pack can provide.

And that really is because that vinyl has to wrap around and shrink wrap itself around that profile. So it's just not as sharp, I suppose. The advantage of that is because it's not as sharp and it's got, you know, it's on a slight, slight, it makes it a little bit easier to clean rather than super, super sharp, edging, like you would have in a super sharp sink that it's quite difficult to get into those edges. So that could also be viewed as a positive it's available in lots of different colours, but you are obviously limited to the colours provided by the manufacturer.

It's not like Two Pack where you can choose, you know, whatever colour is available in a paint colour.

The other thing to think about is that it's not suitable for really high doors because it can actually warp over time. And that's where I would probably, if you've got a very high doors, a specified in your kitchen, it either needs to be designed around which we do all the time or you need to then have, a different type of, Material, just because generally the two pack doors at, you know, 2.6 can, can actually, sorry, the vinyl doors can actually be too, just too high, for it to be super durable over time.

The other great thing with a thermal wrap is as like two pack, it does wrap around the door front. So you also got that smooth, seamless edge, which a lot of people really like to have. I regularly specify thermal wrap for family kitchens. We've got our go to brands and they just work so well. They're not as susceptible to chipping.

And so I find that thermal wrap is actually just a little bit more durable in that regard. It's really the edges on cabinetry that are going to, damage much more quickly than the surface. And that's why I think a thermal wrap is a little bit more forgiving. The next one is incredibly popular in that is laminate.

Laminate is available in so many different finishes and there are so many different manufacturers, both here in Australia and also overseas so some of the finishes natural, a natural finish, a satin finish. With a low level of gloss and matte finish, we've got fingerprint and chemical resistant surface finishes, a wood grain or embossed finishes and gloss.

So there are just so many different types of finishes available depending on who the manufacturer is. And this often determines the price point. So laminate can be quite cost effective. It could be, you know, depending on the finish that you're choosing or yeah, can be similar to thermal wrap and to pack and be at the house higher end of the scale, just because of the finish and also where it's coming from.

Not all laminates are equal. Some of the elements that we use that come out of Europe, we find a superior in terms of clients wanting timber, look finish. Oh, some of the timber looked laminates coming out of Europe are very, very lifelike. And, and so I feel that sometimes it's worth spending a little bit more, if it's really important for the client, that that timber is looking as lifelike as possible.

Some of the cheaper laminates available, the team is a, not necessarily as lifelike. So that's something just to consider and you know, if you're not using a timber, then, it may not be necessary to go as high end. It doesn't actually wrap round the door front to provide a seamless finish, like thermal wrap and Two Pack does.

So there's an edging type, between the door front and the, and the edge of the door. And that's called an abs edging. So it doesn't wrap all the way around. So if a seamless edge is important to you, a laminate may not. Be the finish that you would prefer now? Obviously, well, not obviously, but, in, you know, when laminate was really big in the sixties as well, sometimes the edging match and you'd have like a piece of coloured plastic that went on the edging, between the door front and the sides.

That's now changed. And pretty much every laminate is available with a matching abs edging tape, which it means that it's not as noticeable. And you've got like one to two mil between the front and the end, the in the edge where there may be a little bit of plastic exposed, but that's becoming much, much better.

And, it's not as obvious as what it used to be. Also comes in a wide variety of colours and finishes the timber look, cabinetry is very, very popular and as I was saying before, there is a very big difference with how lifelike it looks depending on the brand. Yeah. You can also have profile doors with laminate.

It's not as extensive as what it would be. I would say Two Pack but again, you can have your profile doors, Alright! The next one I'm going to talk about is timber veneer. Now this is a premium product. It is a very thin slice of real timber. That's actually put on a furniture grade MDF. So being a premium material, it's a real piece of timber.

It's a much higher. It requires a much higher budget. It's definitely for our high end kitchen. Now it's also, really the good from an environmentally, conscious perspective because you're maximizing that log into tiny things, little sheets you are basically using the entire log into all these thin, thin, thin layers then get attached to the MDF. Yeah. It's not as durable. And I think this is from a price point perspective. I mean, it's at least double the price of Two Pack and sometimes even more just depending on the timber that you're choosing. Absolutely beautiful of course but the other reason a lot of clients are not veering down that path is because it's not as durable as some of the other materials that I've mentioned previously in this episode.

So because it is a real timber, it can absorb moisture, even though you can actually have a finish, are placed over the top of it. It needs a little bit of extra care with cleaning and it can actually scratch more easily. So sometimes because of these reasons, and particularly not that we're talking about

bathrooms, but if you've got, you know, lots of steam and so forth, it's not necessarily going to be a great, a great, decision to use in those areas, if it is going to be, A little bit, battered around, again, in a family kitchen, overhead covered.

It's probably going to be fine. but yeah, but, under bench cupboards you'd really need to be mindful just in terms of how much beating it's going to get, in a family kitchen. The next one I wanted to talk about was Dekton. Now you will have heard me talk about Denton as one of my most favourite bench, top materials around; when we were talking about bench tops in the benchtop part one episode.

but it can also be used as cabinetry fronts now because dictum by Cosentino is a product that is pretty much used for anything floors, facades, bench tops, you name it, but it can also be used for cabinetry fronts and. It's pretty much indestructible so your kids can draw all over it and we call it graffiti proof and that will all come off.

It won't mark. It won't stay and it won't scratch. So it is very, very durable. It's also, a great choice if you're after a very specific aesthetic. So Dekton comes in a lot of industrial size finishes. So something that, that looks a little bit more industrial, looks like iron. It looks like, you know, a beaten metal, Dekton actually have those sorts of finishes available. So if that's the sort of thing that you'd like as your cabinetry front deck and could be an option for you, and also the fact that it is pretty much indestructible, it's definitely going to be a high price point to have that your cabinetry front then say something like, well, laminate or thermal wrap.

But again, there are reasons that you may want to use it. The final one I'm going to talk about now is glass. And I often get asked about having glass fronts, and I think it's great for being able to see your contents. If you've got some stunning glasses that you wanted to showcase or anything else that you wanted to showcase behind glass, then glass doors, a beautiful, they also break up the cabinet tree.

So rather than having, you know, a block. Of, you know, solid cabinetry, the glass can break that up a little bit. And I know that that's quite appealing for a lot of people are also not so great. So on one side, it's really nice to showcase the contents behind the glass doors, but also not so great if you really want to be able to hide contents and probably even more hide, maybe some of that, not so tidy cupboards, or the fact that you might need to, put more in there that you knew intended.

So If that's going to be a concern and you're not quite sure what you're going to put in there, then perhaps glass may not be the ideal solution. You're able to use different types of glass types, which then can also create a little bit of interest in your kitchen. Because you're adding texture and you're adding a different aesthetic.

So things like frosted, which I personally, I'm not a massive fan of. I think it's a little bit, sterile. Yeah. But flu should glass is also something that's quite beautiful. It's an aesthetic in itself. It also disguises a little bit more what behind, in, in the car. So it's less visible behind a flushed or frosted glass.

It can be expensive. And another thing you'll need to consider other clear the cleaning requirements, required, and it may be more susceptible to chipping, but obviously, like I was talking about last week with regards to splashbacks. You know the cleaning and the streaking, my also drive you crazy. And that might be a reason that glass; it's not going to be for you.

Now, the final thing I wanted to talk about, because that's where I've covered off the seven different materials. And I certainly hope that now you've got a lot more to research, a lot more Googling to do in terms of what are going to be the finishes that are right for you. And don't forget in every one of these different categories that you've got a wide variety of brands available and they will have, perhaps different features they'll have different colours and different elements available.

But I just wanted to chat to you quickly about kickers and kickers are the piece of material that runs from your floor. So basically underneath the cupboard, the under bench cupboard that meet the floor, and these are rebated back, back from the cupboards front so that you can get your feet under there.

You can vacuum under there, and they are generally anywhere between a hundred and 150 millimetres high. There that's fairly standard. Now there are lots of different things that you can do with your kickers. They can be part of the aesthetic and create a different type of feel to your kitchen. So you could actually use the same cabinetry material on your cabinet fronts for your kicker.

So, for example, if you were using thermal wrap on your cabinetry fronts in your under bench cabinetry, you could then run that also along as a kicker, or you could choose different colour, which can create a completely different aesthetic. You can create a contrast with the kicker and the cabinetry front.

I really like using stone, particularly if there's leftover stone from bench tops or whatever the bench tops going to be, again, that's going to depend on what the colour is of your benchtops and whether that's all going to work. But stone is obviously super durable. But some people get a little bit worried about, you know, products like thermal wrap being okay for kickers.

They wiped down really easily. So from that perspective, they're great and yeah, some, some of the scuffs may not come out. You've got to be pretty serious on the scuffing. I found them to be really, really durable in my own kitchens, but stone, I suppose it's just that step up. Some people are using things like stainless steel that creates a very different aesthetic, as well.

And that's obviously very, very durable, and would also then be more expensive. So there are lots of different things that you can do with your kickers, but don't forget about those when you're specifying, because they also need to be considered. There are lots of different things that you can do with your kickers.

Alright! So that is, here's my episode on cabinetry and materials. I just wanted to remind you. We have been working on so many kitchens over the last couple of months, and what it's prompted me to consider is that we need a little bit more information on our website. So coming soon, there is

going to be more information on the packages that we provide for kitchens. We can do materials only if you're really stuck on what goes with what or what material is going to suit your particular requirements. We can do materials only. We can do the kitchen design only, and I am going to have a whole different episode in the podcast on joinery design and kitchen design, because it is so important.

The amount of times I've seen people designing their kitchen off a floor plan and expecting the builder to know what they want is just, it just blows me away. It is just not possible to get what you want, relying off a floor plan. So we can just do the design, which is really critical. And the way we go about the design is quite different to how, it can be done and elsewhere, or we can do both.

And so we're just finding with clients, asking us to do more and more different things, and tailoring things to them that I'm now creating standard packages for materials only designing and doing the joinery only, or we can actually do both the other thing that we're getting asked more to do is a kitchen plan sanity check.

Most of you who follow me would know that we do a floor plan, sanity check, which is an incredibly popular product, basically assessing all of your floor plans. And now we're getting asked more and more. Can you please have a look at my kitchen? Can you please let me know that it's okay and so I am going to create a standalone kitchen sanity checked product that he's going to or service.

I should say that it's going to be coming soon and available on the website booking on the website. And, and that just enables you to have a second set of expert eyes, go over your kitchen to make sure that it's, it's going to serve you as best it does. It can. Now that's obviously going to be a little bit limited in terms of, well, we can certainly provide a lot of guidance, but we're, it's, it's, it's really reviewing the floor plans.

I'm designing the kitchen for you is a separate service. So don't forget you can Book a chat with me. If you are a bit stuck on something, particularly now is an awesome time to, really get moving. We are doing so much joinery design and so many other things that we're able to do remotely to keep projects ticking over, particularly for Victorians that are in stage four lockdown.

So that when we actually open up again, you're ready to rock and roll. So there is just still so much that you are able to do. And I think clients have been quite surprised in what we are able to achieve for them in this way, lockdown period, because the whole team is working from home and we've got the resources to work from home to do that.

So if you are a bit stuck, don't forget to book a chat. I'll leave that link in the show notes. It's also available on the homepage of the website that you can get access to my diary and book in 15 minutes with me to go through, what may be a sticking point for you. And we can, I can help you out there.

So, Next week, I'm going to be talking about joinery design. So joinery design is a one element of internal elevations, and I just want to run through why it's so important and what the insight you can

gain from getting your kitchen designed are properly using internal elevations and the sorts of things that can be missed if you don't do that.

And the sorts of headaches that you can avoid, by getting your kitchen designed and basically going through all the different elements, at, at a, at a paper stage rather than an onsite stage, it's quite insightful in terms of the difference it can make. To the outcome to mitigating mistakes and to really, I think most importantly getting what you want.

And so I'm going to be talking about that in depth next week. So don't miss that episode. Internal elevations and kitchen joinery design that that's going to be a great one. I think it's the one that we're getting asked so much about. Cause there's a really, I've sent that. Just understand what are you get with an internal elevation?

What do you get with, with joinery? What does it mean? Why can't I do that myself? Just, just how, impactful it can be to getting what you wanted mitigating mistakes. So anyway, I'm sure now you'll be busying yourself with doing those lots of research on the cabinetry materials that may actually suit you.

I trust is this has provided you with some really good insight. Don't forget to leave a review. I'm getting so much feedback from people about how, how much knowledge they're getting from this podcast, which is just music to my ears. And, you know, has a big love heart in my heart. When, people say that to me.

Yeah. But if you can leave a review that just helps other people find this podcast. Cause we're still relatively new. We only launched in April. So I would so appreciate if you could leave a review so that other people can find us too, have a great week. I'll be here next week, next Wednesday for the joinery design of your kitchen.

END OF TRANSCRIPT

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