

TOP 11 KITCHEN TRENDS IN 2026

Kitchen Design Look Book

& Renovation Checklist

Eleven of the trends shaping Australian kitchens this year, plus a complete planning checklist and the honest, hands-on advice we give every family we design for.

where life gathers

2026 EDITION





TREND

01

Warm neutral palettes

Cool greys and stark whites are giving way to creamy off-whites, mushroom tones, and warm greige for a calmer, softer backdrop. This palette also tends to age better than stark white, which can show wear and feel clinical over time.

Our Tip

A warm white cabinetry base pairs beautifully with a honed stone benchtop, and brushed brass or matte black hardware is timeless and easy to update later.

TREND 02

Earthy accent colours

Olive green, terracotta, clay, sage, and rich navy are showing up as cabinetry colours, adding warmth and personality against neutral schemes.

Our Tip

Keep the bold colour on one element only, usually the island, so the kitchen still feels considered rather than busy.





TREND

03

Timber tones with real grain

Flat, featureless timber-look finishes are out; genuine visible wood grain and texture are back as a grounding, tactile element, most often used on island fronts, open shelving and feature panelling.

Our Tip

Pair timber-toned cabinetry on the island with matte cabinetry elsewhere. It reads as intentional, not mismatched.

TREND 04

Mixed materials & layered textures

Homeowners are moving away from perfectly matching kitchens, instead pairing matte cabinetry with fluted detailing, brushed metal hardware, and textured stone for depth.

Our Tip

We suggest limiting yourself to three material families, one cabinetry finish, one stone, one metal, and repeating them consistently through the space.





TREND

05

Statement islands

Waterfall-edge benchtops, curved island forms, and bold veined stone are the centrepiece trend of the year.

Our Tip

A waterfall edge, whilst beautiful, uses significantly more stone than a standard benchtop. It's worth factoring into your budget conversation early.

TREND 06

Fully integrated & hidden appliances

Appliances are disappearing into cabinetry lines, with some kitchens using pocket doors to tuck away entire prep zones.

Our Tip

Hidden prep zones work best when they include their own power points and task lighting. Plan the electrical early, not as an afterthought.





TREND

07

Layered lighting design

A single overhead light is being replaced with task, ambient, and feature lighting (including under-cabinet strips) to shape mood and function.

Our Tip

Under-cabinet lighting on its own switch makes a big difference for evening use without lighting the whole kitchen.

TREND 08

Smart storage & butler's pantries

Hidden sculleries, walk-in pantries and multi-use storage continue to be one of the most requested features in kitchen renovations. Corner Le Mans units and deep pull-out pantries help maximise every centimetre of storage.

Our Tip

If you don't have the space for a butler's pantry, consider nifty storage solutions to suit the needs of you and your family.





Refined shaker & 'micro-shaker' cabinetry

Classic shaker profiles remain Australia's favourite, but with narrower, cleaner profiles for a more tailored, contemporary look. Polytec's new Vista door profile is one worth looking at for this refined look without a fully custom build.

Our Tip

Ask to see the Polytec Vista door in person under your own kitchen's lighting before deciding. Shadow lines read differently to photos.

TREND 10

Statement splashbacks

Full-height natural stone, bold patterned tile, or a benchtop material carried straight up the wall are being treated as a genuine design feature rather than just a practical surface behind the tap.

Our Tip

A full-height stone splashback needs a seamless slab join measured after cabinetry is installed, not before. Get this step right to avoid a costly mismatch.





TREND

11

Curved, organic cabinetry lines

Rounded island corners, curved cabinetry ends and gentle bullnose edges are showing up alongside the curved island trend, softening otherwise linear kitchens.

Our Tip

Curved joinery costs more to fabricate than a straight run. Earmark one or two curved elements, such as an island end or peninsula corner, rather than curving the whole kitchen.



THE PLANNING

Kitchen Renovation Checklist

12 things to think through before you start

Twenty-eight years of kitchens has taught us one thing: the renovations that go smoothly are the ones where the big decisions get made early. Work through these twelve considerations before you call a trade or sign off on a design, and bring your notes along to your free in-home consultation.



01 Set a real budget, with a buffer.

Work out what you're comfortable spending, then add 10–15% on top for the things that always come up once walls open up. Tell us your number early and we'll design to it, so nothing gets suggested that doesn't fit.



02 Think about how your family actually lives.

Do the kids do homework at the bench? Do you love hosting? Is it two cooks in the kitchen most nights? Tell us how you live and we'll build the design around it, not the other way round.



03 Get the layout, workflow and storage right.

Fridge, sink, and cooktop in an easy triangle, pantry space that's actually big enough, a spot for every pot and appliance. This is the part people wish they'd thought harder about, and the part we spend the most time on with you.



04 Choose a benchtop that suits your life, not just your Pinterest board.

Laminate, stone, and engineered surfaces all look great, but they behave very differently day to day. Bring us your inspiration photos and we'll help you match the look to something that'll actually hold up.



05 Pick cabinetry finishes that'll still feel right in ten years.

Trends come and go, but a well-made kitchen should last decades. We'll talk you through what's timeless versus what's trending, so you can choose with your eyes open.



06 Decide what's staying and what's going, appliances and rangehood included.

Keeping your current oven or upgrading to something new changes cabinetry sizes, power points, and ventilation. Let us know early and we'll factor it straight into the design, so nothing needs reworking later.



07 Don't treat lighting as an afterthought.

Task lighting over the bench, warm ambient lighting for evenings, a feature pendant over the island. It all changes how a kitchen feels. We'll suggest a lighting plan as part of your design, so it's never guesswork.



08 Check what's involved in moving plumbing or electrical.

Shifting a sink or cooktop to a new spot is very doable. Once we've measured your space, we'll tell you exactly what's involved and what it means for your budget and timeline, so there are no surprises later.



09 Think about flooring and how it connects to the rest of the house.

If your kitchen opens onto a living or dining area, matching or complementing the flooring makes the whole space feel considered. Happy to talk this through with you when we're in your home.



10 Have a plan for how you'll live during the build.

A kitchen renovation means some time without a kitchen. Once your install is scheduled, our project manager will walk you through timing and trades, so you know what to expect week to week.



11 Check if council or strata approval applies to you.

Most kitchen renovations don't need approval, but structural changes, moving walls, or homes on strata can. If you're not sure, just ask us. We've been through this enough times to point you in the right direction.



12 Look into your financing options.

Interest-free payment plans are worth exploring if you'd rather spread the cost than pay it all upfront. Ask us about what's available, we're happy to talk you through it before you rule anything out.



READY TO TALK IT THROUGH?

Book your **free in-home consultation** & quote

You don't need every box ticked to reach out. Bring this checklist along to your free in-home consultation and quote, and we'll help you work through what's left. No pressure, no obligation, just an honest conversation about your kitchen.

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