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Kitchen trends

The heart of the home, the kitchen should connect with the dining and living areas to create "one large open space," says Daniel Bertuccio, marketing manager for Eurolinx Australia.

He says a common technique used when renovating to make the space appear more open is consistent flooring that flows from space to space. This will make it appear larger and seamless.

Another smart move is to integrate the dining table in the kitchen and act as a 'step' down table and workspace.

Bunnings Kitchen buyer Simon Warmington says the kitchen is the best place to start to give your home an update and refresh.

Planning is crucial in ensuring it will be functional. Consider the size, function, service, budget, storage and layout needs of your kitchen before starting any work.

Interior designer and judge of *The Block* Darren Palmer says metallics have been popular in interiors for a couple of years now, and the use of metallic surfaces lends a subtle, sophisticated sheen to the kitchen. In his new kitchen from Freedom, Darren chose touch-catch doors rather than handles to keep it sleek, but then tied back to the metallic with anthracite handles on his timber-look lower cabinets.

It's important to make sure that your kitchen works for you. Laminex outlines their top things to consider before you begin your kitchen renovation:

Budget: have a clear budget that allows for contingency, and consider only updating some components of the kitchen to transform the mood and tone

Layout: think about how you interact with your kitchen in terms of cooking, storage and connection to living areas

Style: choose a style that reflects your personality and that you feel comfortable with

Colour: make sure you choose the right colour palette for your space; Laminex has an inspiration gallery to get you started

Products and materials: functionality is equally as important as aesthetics; look to incorporate existing materials in your home into the kitchen to create a seamless style

Appliances, tapware and sinks: consider how often you use the kitchen and with how many people, as well as how often you want to clean and maintain your appliances.

Top trends

Two-tone cabinetry, earthy tones and textures, industrial inspired benchtops and mixed metals are hot this year in kitchen design, according to Susan Hasler from Freedom Kitchens.



Mixed metals are on trend for kitchen design, evident in Darren Palmer's new Freedom kitchen. Photo: Freedom Kitchens. Photographer: John Paul Urizar.