

# Kitchen Korner

## What's Cooking In Kitchen Trends?

(NAPSA)—Cooking up a new kitchen design for your home is a lot easier when you combine aesthetics with your practical needs. Here's a mini-primer of the top kitchen trends based on information from the experts.

With more than 200 designs and a nearly unlimited number of patterns, colors and finishes, Wilsonart's laminate provides options that other materials can't.

### Transitional Kitchens

Transitional kitchens occur when couples blend different ideas and tastes into a mix that works for both. This new trend has surfaced in the last three to five years due to the growing number of men who are now involved in the design of the kitchen.

"Men want a say in how to build a house and how to arrange lifestyles around the kitchen," says New York-based interior designer Deborah Antar.

Designers use laminate countertops as a way to pull together such kitchens. For example, to create balance in a kitchen that contains both modern masculine elements and a feminine rustic style, a granite-like laminate pattern in a rich hue is ideal. The granite pattern works for both kitchen styles and the infusion of color achieves the required balance.

### Farmhouse Casual Kitchens

Farmhouse casual kitchens feature lots of wood painted in glazed off-white hues, bead boards of varying widths and distressed-looking materials. There are many cabinets and large prep areas, traditional light fixtures and wood flooring. Wilsonart's Roca Series, for example, expertly replicates time worn stone and is a natural fit.



**Laminate countertops work with all kitchen styles and provide stylish, versatile and economical design options.**

### Mediterranean Kitchens

Mediterranean kitchens often sport dark, rich woods with straighter lines than the farmhouse style. Fixtures have simple lines and flooring is wood or tumbled stone. Color has more of a presence in these kitchens. The elegant marble looks of the Fusion Series in deep green, blue and black as well as neutral tones are at home in Mediterranean kitchens.

### Modern Kitchens

Modern kitchens favor high-gloss finishes, fun colors and exotic veneers. Lighting is not just utilitarian but makes a decorative statement. Appliances and countertops often feature color. Flooring can be an exotic wood, such as bamboo, or depict interesting patterns. Metallic laminate patterns or ones with a subtle sheen provide designs for the modern kitchen.

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