

# On the surface, it's white

Caesarstone, Cosentino announce new colours for a hot kitchen finish

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2018 is the year to explore white in the kitchen — not so much in cabinetry or appliances, but on the counter instead.

Quartz manufacturer Caesarstone and surface leader Cosentino Group have each announced new colours for the coming year, and white is popping up as a common theme.

Cosentino's new Dekton colours include Nayla, a granulated matte white, and Vienna, a grainy, glossy white tone. Caesarstone unveiled three starkly different whites: Cloudburst Concrete, a white version of what a natural poured concrete surface would look like; Intense White, a clean, crisp neutral white; and, Frozen Terra, a matte white finish infused with terrazzo-like specks of grey and black.

"Overall, we're seeing the real influences of Scandinavian design ... this combination of graphic and quiet at the same time," said Caesarstone vice-president, Marketing, Liz Margles. "That's why you'll see a lot of white."

The push for white surfaces coincides with a move away from darker, espresso wood cabinetry towards natural, cooler finishes, including black walnut and beech. In North America, consumers are also gravitating towards steel blue or grayish green cabinets.

If you want your cabinetry to be the star, said Margles, the consistent, clean pattern of an Intense White quartz countertop "would go perfectly well." On the other hand, if you want your counter to "be the hero element" on its own, choose Cloudburst Concrete or Frozen Terra.

"As white as they are, they are both pretty much design statements and your eye would be drawn to them," she said, noting that Frozen Terra in particular is marking the return to mid-century modern décor, reminiscent of the Mad Men era.

Mixing and matching remains popular in kitchen design for the coming year. Margles said it's "perfectly acceptable" to use matte and high polish countertops in the same kitchen.

Often, homeowners will choose a

darker cabinetry and surface for the island, for example, and a more subtle cabinet choice with a more neutral counter for the perimeter.

"Whereas it would have been verboten to mix a really high gloss lacquer cabinet with a natural wood cabinet, now we're really starting to see that as an emerging trend as well," said Margles, noting that the more new styles become mainstream, the more people start experimenting with them.

Cosentino introduced Dekton in 2013, a new ultra-compact surface that is non-porous and highly resistant to UV rays, scratches, stains and thermal shock. The product is produced using a process called sinterized particle technology which accelerates the natural metamorphic process rock undergoes when it's subject to high temperature and pressure over a long period.

"Dekton has been extremely well received within the Canadian market ... We look forward to the success of these new colour offerings," stated Massimo Ballucchi, director of Marketing, Cosentino North America.



Inspired by the classic and long-lasting marble trend, Eternal Desert Silver offers an icy, translucent aesthetic created by fine, clear veins.



White is popping up as a common theme in kitchen decor. New colours from Caesarstone include Intense White, a clean, crisp neutral white.

## Keeping the heart of your home healthy



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If the heart of your home need resuscitating, don't bypass the procedure, go for a whole transplant. Kitchen renovations offer the highest return for your dollar.

According to the Appraisal Institute of Canada <https://www.aicanda.ca/> it's measured in three ways; the value of the increased sales price of the home, the value of future enjoyment of the space, and the value of maintaining the worth of the property.

To make sure your potential investment is consistent with the market, check with local realtors. They know what your neighborhood homes are selling for and what the market can support and help determine what your investment should be.

In the kitchen, where many decisions must be made on materials and finishes, I usually start with flooring. It's the largest surface and can impact the rest of the home.

If you're in need of an upgrade (I'm looking at you, honey-oak wood floors!), you can look at the latest in hardwood—the wider the plank the more expensive.

Blonde, light-toned, natural looking wood is back in style and performs as a great neutral throughout a home. Speers Road Broadloom in



PHOTOGRAPHY BY GILLIAN JACKSON

One big upgrade for a kitchen is counter tops. Quartz and granite are hard-working, hard-wearing and will perform for years.

Oakville offers an impressive selection of the great wood impersonator, laminate, and all the finishes it can mimic like distressed barn wood. Vinyl has come a long way, too, and offer a well-priced alternative.

Cabinetry is next. The door profile can dictate the cost, the simpler the detail the lower the cost. I like to encourage clients to consider colour, even just on the island cabinetry if it's a home they plan to stay in, but for resale, white it is. Hand crafted, custom-made cabinets that features superior joinery will elevate the kitchen for high end resale.

One big upgrade for a kitchen is counter tops. I don't recommend marble, it's beautiful but impractical. Quartz and granite are hard-

working, hard-wearing and will perform for years.

I love the look and price of butcher block, available in many types of wood. But for real savings you can choose a laminate material in a wide selection of patterns and finishes, plus you can customize the edge profile for a one of a kind appearance.

Backsplashes are a great place to splurge if you're staying in your home. There's no end to the colour, texture, pattern and variety of finishes available.

From simple subway tiles (now in colour!) to graphic, modern tile made of resin and marble dust. Just don't go too wild if you're looking at resale. There's an elegance to understatement.



ARNAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Lighting is a place you can save or splurge. Pendant lighting offers efficient task lighting, is practical and comes in a wide range of styles.

Lighting is also a place you can save or splurge. In the kitchen, you want efficient task lighting, practical and yet, beautiful. Pendants come in a wide range of styles, so make sure the scale of the fixture suits the space.

What about appliances? Is white out of fashion? No. Do you have to get stainless steel? No. While still very popular, if you're looking for a more contemporary upgrade black stainless offers a sleek-looking, resilient surface that doesn't show fingerprints.

Matte black is the newest finish coming on the market, a cool choice if you plan on staying in your home. Built-in appliances are a higher end, customized upgrade. Built-in with paneled doors that blend the refrig-

erator in with the cabinetry says pure luxury.

Choosing materials for a kitchen renovation can be daunting so I like to take a page out of the method used in new home décor centres.

Bringing samples together and laying them out helps you visualize the materials, colours, finishes and how they will look together. Choosing the right materials for your kitchen while considering the market will get you to that 100% return on your investment.

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