

# Clean Lines and Personalized Luxury Lead 2016 Kitchen Cabinet Trends

The National Kitchen and Bath Association has tracked kitchen and bath design trends for over 53 years. This year's findings are based on the 450 members of NKBA that specialize in full kitchen projects, both remodeling and new construction. A third of survey respondents described their customer base as "empty nesters," with 20 percent reporting that multi-generational households and families with teenage children represent their primary customer bases.

Clean lines, less ornamentation, and personalized luxury were the three major trends in kitchen designs. "It's all unique designs. People don't want the kitchen down the street. They want to make it their own," says Kelli Kaufer, an interior designer from Minnesota. "We are finding old fixtures and furniture pieces to incorporate into their designs."

The emphasis is on good functional designs that work, finishes that are not over the top but provide lasting value and timeless design. Simpler styling that makes the most of customer dollars is a growing trend in today's kitchens. In 2015, 50 percent of

kitchens were priced between \$20,000 and \$49,999; 35 percent of kitchens were priced between \$50,000 and \$99,999.

With more focus on personal enjoyment rather than future resale value, homeowners are more comfortable with bolder choices in colors as well as mixing and matching colors, textures and finishing. It's commonplace to find the island in one finish and wall cabinets a different color.

Technology is being incorporated. Two-thirds of kitchens now have desks or home office areas, as well as flat-screen tvs and docking/charging stations.

The four most common kitchen styles include transitional, traditional, contemporary and shaker. Farmhouse kitchens are still the number one most requested style for today's homeowners. Many are incorporating open shelving, furniture storage pieces and farm tables into the mix with standard cabinets to complete the look.

Country has declined 12 percentage points in just two years. Shaker experienced a seven-point decline in 2015 vs. 2014, yet is still one of four styles

expected to increase in 2016. Traditional style, while still strong is anticipated to decrease in 2016. Emerging styles include Industrial and Mid-Century Modern.

Gray and white/off-whites are the most common kitchen color schemes. The third most popular color option was dark natural wood cabinets. Other color schemes that are gaining in popularity are blues, browns, greens and stainless steel. Less popular cabinet finishes were anything glazed. Glass doors on wall cabinets, furniture-look pieces and open shelving are all growing trends for 2016 kitchens.

Kitchens are major investments. But with most families now spending up to 30 hours per week in the kitchen it's a valuable investment in any home. When designing your next kitchen take into consideration proven design styles that have consistently remained strong or ones that are steadily trending up in popularity. But don't sacrifice your own style for what you think is "safe". You have to love your kitchen, so do your homework and trust your own good taste.



## Top 10 Kitchen Trends for 2016

1. Transitional style, with clean lines, and less ornamentation.
2. Two or more cabinet colors/finishes in the same kitchen, often in a light/dark combo.
3. Pull-outs, tilt-outs, and tilt-ins for ease of storage, trash and recycling.
4. The look of wood flooring dominates, be it actual wood or wood-look ceramic tile.
5. Different countertops for islands and the perimeter, varying in both color and material.
6. Outdoor kitchens, most popular in the Southeast.
7. Built-in coffee stations and wet bars, as well as built-in wine refrigerators.
8. Pocket doors.
9. Pet spaces, including built-in feeding stations, food storage, and crates.
10. Docking and charging stations.