

Trends include 'leather finish' stone, and concrete, raw, natural looking stone, just being introduced to the market.

Other alternatives for bench tops include hard wearing laminate, the endurance of stainless steel and imaginative products such as mosaic tiles and polished concrete.

Splashbacks

Increasing in popularity are the glass splashbacks. Other options are stainless steel, natural and reconstituted stone. These flat hard surfaces can be easily maintained.

Tiles have always been a good alternative, with the larger tiles (i.e. 600mm x 300mm) on the market making the grouting less of a hassle to clean.

TIP- shabby tiles? I painted over tiles with a specialist tile paint product 10 years ago and it's still as good as new!

Lighting

Kitchen lighting is absolutely vital - we require task lighting over areas such as sinks and bench tops, subtle lighting such as LED's under benches, overhead cupboard lighting, the list goes on. Adam from 'Beacon Lighting' in Frankston believes functionality - "nice bright light" can be combined with soft lighting - LED's for instance, he says, have low power usage with approximately 100,000 hours before you change the fittings - these are



Kitchen designed by Jayson Builders in conjunction with cabinets and joinery by CFS Cabinets. Kitchen gun metal grey vinyl wrap cupboard. Timber veneer for shelving overhead cupboards spoiled gum. Granite - African black supplied and manufactured by Nepean Stone. Lighting by Beacon Lighting in Frankston. Appliances by Ilve".

used for more subtle and ambient lighting. Adam also believes that bench tops "need to be nicely illuminated" with some interesting and creative lighting from drop pendants with different coloured shades, to wither pendants. "It is only limited to the imagination" says Adam.

Dennis from 'House' suggests you add some extra dimensions to the home with a strong trend to black and whites in patterned ceramics, smart streamlined gadgets or kitchen aids in aubergines and earthy reds.

Surrounding ourselves with enriching colours, textures and patterns combined with the alluring sense of comfort contributes greatly to the 'heart of the home'.

*See next issue for more on kitchens.
Cheers - Ginger Hill.*

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