



## 3 WAYS TO *spice up your kitchen*

From jewel-hued accessories to colourful cabinets, the options for creating a kitchen that dazzles are endless. Put on your apron and whip up a dream kitchen with our easy recipe

WORDS VANESSA KEYS





**OPTION 1** *Add colour with accents*  
 Vivid hues mark the kitchen as a place to have fun.  
 Harness the power of surprise with accessories that make  
 a statement – all you have to do is go shopping!

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**1 Accent colours**

By far the simplest way to add spice to a space is with a feature colour. Stick to a single shade and choose a few key items, as big or small as you like. "Citrus shades are all the rage right now and are an ideal accent colour," says Angie Hinchcliffe, colour consultant for Inspirations Paint & Colour. "Red is also a no-fail accent colour; not only does it pair well with black, grey and white tones, it's also a colour known to stimulate the appetite." Position accents at different levels to achieve a unified look.

**Colourful accessories encourage you to be a more adventurous cook, and are a great accompaniment to a neutral setting**

**2 Shelving**

If the thought of benchtop clutter sends you running, utilise shelving and unusual nooks and crannies. "Colourful plates, cookbook spines, piles of bright linen, glassware and vintage teacups look gorgeous and impart a real sense of personality when stacked on shelves," says Angie. If you can't part with your white china, do the very opposite – pale crockery stacked on boldly coloured bookshelves looks just as fabulous!

**3 Accessories**

Take a walk on the wild side with kitchenware that doesn't need to be filled with food to stand out. Colourful accessories not only encourage you to be a more adventurous cook, they're the perfect accompaniment to a neutral table setting. Accentuate an all-white space with strong primary colours or give your natural timber setting a burst of brightness with pastel-pretty gelato shades. Think stand-out tea towels, napkins, dinnerware or utensils for easy yet effective bolts of colour. >



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*shopping list*

Kitchen canisters in Turquoise, \$29.95/large, \$24.95/small, Sunnlyfe, (03) 9421 6325, sunnlyfe.com.au.

Laguiole 'Debutant' mixed colour cutlery, \$295.95/24-piece set, VGM, 1800 650 601.

'Amie' 24cm die-cast frypan, \$89.95, Neoflam, 1300 507 330, neoflam.com.au.

'KSM150' stand mixer in Red, \$795, KitchenAid, 1800 990 990, kitchenaid.com.au.

Kuhn Rikon 'Colori' knives, \$15.50/each, VGM, 1800 650 601.

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### 1 Appliances

Colourful appliances may not come cheap but they're a sure-fire way to add sizzle to your space without wielding a paintbrush. Evoke the raring retro feel of yesteryear with Smeg's old-school fridge (its classic exterior belies its high-tech interior) or go modern with one of St George Appliances' 'Custom Colour' ovens (such as the Double Wall oven, \$5499, pictured left), which can be colour-matched to over 100 Dulux shades. Studies have shown that spicy shades of red, orange and yellow stimulate the senses, so imagine the gastronomic masterpieces you could create with an audaciously orange oven!

### 2 Benchtops

Ignite an all-white kitchen with a fire engine red benchtop or go for understated glamour with a warm mocha or charcoal blend. Nothing beats the glamour of a jewel-flecked marble benchtop, but there's no need to duplicate your nan's bright emerald '70s surface – subtle is the word to keep in mind when choosing a colour. We love CaesarStone's 'Free Spirit' surface (from \$500/sqm, caesarstone.com.au), which features purple and gold flecks embedded in creamy composite.

### 3 Blinds

Blinds may be necessary for privacy and light control but don't think of them as purely utilitarian: dressing up your window is a wonderful way to inject a dose of colour while letting your personality shine through. Virtually any fabric can be transformed into blinds or curtains; contact No Chintz (nochintz.com) or Roman Empire (romanempire.com.au). >

Dressing up your window is a wonderful way to let your personality shine through



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### shopping list

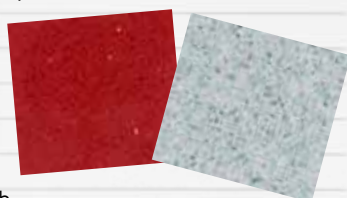


Single left side opening wall oven, \$3749, St George Appliances, 1300 305 366, sga.com.au.

'Fredrika' fabric, \$9.99/metre, Ikea, ikea.com.au.



'Designer' engineered stone in Starlight Ruby and Starlight Blue, from \$500/sqm (including installation), Quantum Quartz, (02) 9772 9888, (07) 5596 7989, (03) 9585 4706, wk.com.au.



'Fab28' retro refrigerator with ice compartment in Green, \$3990, Smeg, (02) 8667 4888, smeg.com.au.

## OPTION 2 *Express yourself with statement pieces*

If the very thought of saturated colour sends you into a tailspin, forget the feature wall and concentrate on adding spark with key pieces in vibrant shades



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**OPTION 3** *Go wild with saturated colour*  
 Not only for the brave, a colour-drenched space is guaranteed  
 to incite the imagination and ignite the senses



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**1 Splashback**

"If you're keeping your cabinetry and benchtops neutral, a glass splashback is a fantastic way to add a dash of dazzle," says Angie. Go high-tech with Laminex's 'Metaline', a super-resistant splashback available in 12 glossy colours, or evoke a breezy Mediterranean look with jewel-hued mosaics. Prints on Glass customises splashbacks with your choice of wallpaper or photography (from \$550/sqm, visit [printsonglass.com.au](http://printsonglass.com.au)).

**2 Paint**

Whether your heart beats wildly at the sight of citrus shades or you feel instantly calmed in the presence of blue, a wonderful wash of colour throughout your kitchen is a sure-fire way to satisfy the senses. Get creative by painting unexpected nooks in neon brights, or go all out with fabulous feature walls. "Make sure you balance your colour in other areas of the kitchen or dining room with similarly hued accessories and furniture; this will create a cohesive colour scheme and ensure the new canary yellow wall doesn't just look like the paintbrush slipped," says Penny del Castillo, interior designer and director of In Design International.

**3 Cabinetry**

Banish the beige! Cabinets decked out in brilliant hues marry serious style with

practicality. "High-gloss cabinetry looks amazing, while highly textured surfaces hide a multitude of sins," says Angie. Don't feel you need to go all out – adding bright doors, such as Laminex's 'ColourTech' doors (from \$75, visit [laminex.com.au](http://laminex.com.au)) or Ikea's 'Rubrik' doors (from \$25), to your existing cabinets will add instant pizzazz for minimal cost.

**4 Wallpaper**

From bare wall to work of art: wallpaper guarantees instant wow-factor. If you're a little apprehensive, start slow and work in stages – covering shelves and storage areas makes for an inexpensive and easy colour hit. Colour addicts can satisfy cravings with a whole wall decked out in glorious pattern, or live up a splashback with a roaring retro print. But be warned: any wallpaper exposed to steam, water or heat should be shielded with glass to prevent damage. **RE**

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