

Uplifting your kitchen walls or cabinets with timeless white

So, you're ready to update your kitchen starting with fresh new paint. Great! Whatever mood you desire to create — crisp, comfy, sleek, or retro — neutrals are "in," and white is a versatile and popular choice. (Please enjoy these pics from recent Greenleaf projects!)

Shades of white provide a perfect setting for a kitchen space, accommodating all other colors and the full gamut of materials and textures.



Here are five style choices for integrating a white kitchen with accents and furnishing to create the just-right ambience you desire.

Clean and crisp: Make use of contrast with stainless steel or black appliances and accessories or glass surfaces. Add finishing touches with a few brightly colored accents like chair covers, vases, sculpture, and vibrantly colored flowers.



Warm and comfy: Wood is your friend. Consider using dark or light wood flooring and furnishings (as above) plus wall accents like decorative wood utensils. White-on-white paper on one wall can add softness and interest, and a vase of pastel or warmly colored flowers can add a welcoming touch.

Modern and sleek: Integrate contemporary furnishings with architectural lighting (beautiful pendant lighting below!) Add finishing touches with abstract sculpture, art and photography.



Retro and relaxed: Past and present can be happy together with appliances and flooring patterns designed with an old-school look. White walls are the perfect canvas for black and white photos and old movie posters. Finishing touches can be discovered at antique shops and yard sales.

Eclectic: You might prefer a blend of styles ... We paint a lot of historic homes (these cabinets, below, used to be cherry!) We often see wonderful blends of the old and new. Be creative -- it's your kitchen!



Whatever style you choose, add freshness and seasonal color with plants, flowers, and fruit bowls. Create interest with recessed lighting and unique or classic pendant lighting. Add pops of color with artwork, and decor.

White walls blend well with a variety of back splashes and kitchen islands. Backsplashes popular with many designers include marble, hexagon patterns, nickel or mosaic tile, and brightly colored block patterns. Prep and serving kitchen islands come in several woods and colors with countertops that include granite, marble, quartz, wood or hybrids.



Some popular whites are Decorators White (above) and White Dove (top of page) from Benjamin Moore or Snowbound and Alabaster (below) from Sherwin-Williams.

White has been a go-to kitchen color throughout modern history and has become especially popular this season. It's often the choice of both designers and homeowners who want a color that looks and feels fresh and blends well with countless elements.

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Jonathan Shenk And the Greenleaf Painters Team

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