



EXPLORING LARGE FORMAT TILES

THE GROWING POPULARITY OF LARGE FORMAT TILES FOR KITCHEN WORKTOPS

In recent years, large format tiles have gained immense popularity as a choice for kitchen worktops. These oversized tiles have given new options for the kitchen. With their sleek appearance and benefits, large format tiles are becoming the go-to option for many.

These oversized tiles are predominantly made from porcelain or ceramic with the porcelain version often having applications far beyond kitchen countertops. They can also be used for cladding – both interior and exterior. Their colourfastness makes them ideal for an exterior application as they will not fade easily. Their heat resistance makes them perfect for indoor fireplace cladding too; and they are also ideal for flooring too.

One of the key advantages to using large format tiles is the seamless look they provide, ultimately creating a clean and sophisticated appearance. This can be particularly attractive for homeowners who prefer a minimalist design as this cohesive appearance imparts a sense of spaciousness and elegance to the overall design, making it an excellent choice for contemporary and minimalistic kitchens. The sheer size of the tiles ensures there are fewer joints or grout lines making the space seem larger and less interrupted.

Durability is another significant factor contributing to the growth in popularity of large format tiles. They are resistant to scratches, heat and stains making them a practical choice for kitchen countertops. The fact that they offer you fewer joints increases their resistance to cracking and chipping.





It is however vital that that your kitchen company and fabricator know and understand the product as it requires very specific support in the form of a substrate. Without this the material is unstable and at high risk of cracking. It is also vital that the carcassing itself is stable as movement in the carcassing can see the material pull away from itself at its joints. This is particularly important if they are being used to create a waterfall look on an island. Here it is recommended that the island carcasses are placed on a solid base rather than plastic legs to ensure full and stable support of the material.



Large format tiles offer numerous design possibilities. They are available in various colors, patterns, designs and finishes, allowing the homeowner to choose a style that fits their kitchen décor. Additionally, these tiles can be cut into different shapes and sizes, enabling endless customization options and offering great versatility to fit any kitchen layout.

While large format tiles have numerous benefits, it is essential to ensure proper care and maintenance to preserve their appearance. These tiles require minimal maintenance, and if maintained correctly are easy to clean and do not require sealing like other countertop materials such as natural stone.

For day-to-day cleaning, a soft cloth should be used to wipe the surface. As with quartz or natural stone countertops, it is recommended to always make use of trivets, hot pads or cutting boards when placing hot pots or pans on the countertop to avoid thermal shock and potential damage. Large format tile are known for their durability, however, sudden temperature changes can weaken the material over time.

It must be noted that the tiles are vulnerable to chipping on the edge if banged sharply with a hard object like a pot or pan so care should be taken when washing dishes or putting pots and pans away. It is also vital that you get an expert to do the installation so that the layout of the tiles is done correctly and aesthetically and that joints are done seamlessly.

When it comes to cost this can vary vastly depending on what the tile is made from and its size. While a large format ceramic tile may be a more cost effective solution for surfacing, large format porcelain tiles will be more expensive. You must also bear in mind that you may have the additional cost of substrate support for the tiles as well.

