



FEATURING GLASS IN YOUR KITCHEN

Glass can be a very impactful addition to your kitchen. Whether it be in the form of glass fronted cabinet doors, glass backsplashes or even glass-based surfaces, the very nature of the material gives a kitchen a feeling of being alive.

Modern kitchen design has embraced glass fronted cabinet doors and glass display cabinets. This has been particularly popular in anodised aluminium, or for a more retro look, black powder coated steel frames. Feature glass display units for family heirlooms like silver, China and crystal have made a big comeback as have banks of glass fronted cabinets.

Glass-front cabinet doors are not just available in regular, flat panel types, the options are vast - frosted, stained, stippled and leaded. But also consider grey or bronze tinted glass, or reeded or fluted glass that is now certainly trending (yes, we know your granny had this in her bathroom windows 40 years ago, but it really is making a comeback). Or what about adding some lighting into your cabinets and use Reflex glass which has a mirror-like look when the lights are off, where you can't

see into the cabinet and then as soon as the lights turn on, your display inside is visible through the glass. Then don't forget back painted glass that can be sprayed any colour (this is what is normally used for splashbacks). This gives you loads of options to create a contrasted design or one with neutral tones that blend into the design. The point is, that with such a wide variety of glass available, glass fronted cabinets can make a real statement piece and compliment any style of kitchen.

What is most important in a glass fronted cabinet door is that the right type of glass is used and that it is correctly installed in the frame housing it – whether that be aluminium, steel, wrap, timber, or



melamine. The last thing anyone wants is for the glass to crack, break and fall free from the cabinet injuring someone. For this reason, the South African Glass and Glazing Association (SAGGA) has strict rules on what type of glass may be used for kitchen cabinets. SANS 17:2020 edition 2, specifies the use of safety glazing materials, in the form of Toughened/ Tempered safety glass or laminated glass is to be used for all furniture, which includes kitchen cabinet doors.

Using any form of glass in your kitchen will make it look bigger. Just like mirrors, glass-front kitchen cabinets or glass splashbacks and surfaces also reflect and scatter light throughout the room, making it look open and airy.

Glass splashbacks are versatile and come in a multitude of colour. They can even have images or patterns added to them. They offer an easy to clean stylish splashback solution. It is vital that the glass comes from a reputable supplier and that the glass itself is toughened. The correct fitting of the splashback is also important to ensure it does not crack or the painted surface does not delaminate. A professional installer will ensure that there is enough space between the glass, walls and other surfaces to allow for expansion and contraction which will avoid cracking.

Glass based surfacing is fairly new to South Africa. It is sold and marketed alongside sintered surfacing as it has many similarities, but it is unique and requires fabrication by an experienced fabricator who understands how to cut the material



correctly. These materials are also used for large format cladding and are durable enough to clad the exterior of entire buildings. The materials are available in a variety of looks and feels and in many cases would never be identified as glass based unless you were in the know. If you are wanting to use a glass-based surface, it is vital that you use a specialised product designed for this purpose like Dekton. Using standard toughened glass as a work surface will result in the material scratching.

From our perspective glass adds life to a kitchen and the current ranges of frames to facilitate a contemporary glass cabinet door are a huge asset to kitchen designers. For us the most important thing is safety first. Never compromise safety for cost. The law stipulates that you as a homeowner are as responsible for ensuring the correct glass is being used in your home as the contractor is. It is in your interest to make 100% sure your contractor is using safety glass in all areas where the glass could potentially break and injure someone. With a kitchen being a high traffic and family area, we would strongly recommend that only safety glass is used to ensure the safety of all using and working in your kitchen.



*With thanks to Vogue
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