

KITCHEN DICTIONARY

ALL THE WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU PLAN A NEW KITCHEN

Planning a new kitchen can be very daunting especially when you don't know or understand half of what the designer is saying. So, to help, we have put together a helpful kitchen dictionary of all the words you might not know but will encounter while planning for your new kitchen.

Acrylic / PVC	The plastic based material used to make a laminate or foil.
Acceptable tolerance	The acceptable deviation from perfect that an item is permitted to be while still being considered acceptable.
Back-splash	Material used to cover the area of wall between a kitchen counter top and the upper cabinets.
Brief	A set of instructions regarding the design of your kitchen given to the kitchen designer.
Budget	An estimate figure of how much money you are going to spend on your kitchen installation.
carcass	The supporting framework of a cupboard.
Chipboard	Material made from wood chips and resin which is predominantly used as the base for melamine carcassing.
Cut-out	The hole cut into board or surfacing material either to accommodate an appliance, sink or tap or to create ventilation.
Door bumper	A small piece of plastic adhered to the door to allow it to close without making a loud bang.
Duco / lacquered	Trade name assigned to a lacquered paint finish applied to doors. This finish is available in matte, semi-sheen, gloss and high gloss.
Edging	Thin layer of material to cover the side edge of board – there are various types of edging on the market. (While most companies use a PVC edging, it is advised to rather opt for an ABS edging as it is more stable when exposed to heat).

Ergonomic design	A manner of design that optimises ease of use and maximises storage and accessibility.
Fabricator	A skilled artisan who cuts and prepares various types of stone and solid surfacing.
Fascia or Ceiling Filler	Portion of timber/material that conceals the gap between the ceiling and the tops of wall cupboards.
Fillers	Boards/material used to cover necessary spaces between cupboards or between cupboards and walls.
Five Piece Flat Panel Doors	These are doors which are manufactured using 5 separate pieces of machined timber, namely the 4 pieces for the outer frame and the centre panel which is usually recessed and 'flat'. Also known as a 'Shaker' style door. The 5 pieces slot together like a puzzle.
Five Piece Raised Panel Doors	These are doors which are manufactured using 5 separate pieces of machined timber, namely the 4 pieces of the outer frame and the centre panel which usually has a raised detail. The 5 pieces slot together like a puzzle.
Foil	A PVC material which is thermoformed to the profile of an underlying engineered wood such as MDF board. It is most commonly used in the manufacturing of wrap doors and boards.
Gable	Also known as an 'end panel'. These are vertical panels which usually have one or both sides visible and are often used as upright supports for a counter where there are 'un-housed' appliances (dishwasher, washing machine etc.) or as a tall upright for a bridging wall unit to be fixed to such as a fridge gable.
Granite	A natural material quarried from the earth that can be used as countertops.
Hardware	Fasteners and fittings including hinges and runners which are used in the assembly of a kitchen.
High gloss	A shiny glossy finish that is achievable through either paint or laminate.
Hinge	A piece of hardware vital to the proper function of a cabinet door.
Integrated Appliances	Appliances which are installed behind the door fronts so that they are concealed. These appliances require specially modified units.
Light Shield	Decorative finish to the base of wall units to conceal counter lighting that may be installed.
Masonite	A thin fibreboard made from wood fibre pulped under steam at high pressure. Often used for back panels on carcasses.

Laminate	A thin layer of material (PVC, paper, wood veneer) that is bonded to a substrate, usually chipboard or MDF. Produced in large sheet format, according to the size of the substrate board.
Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)	Engineered wood product made by breaking down hardwood or softwood residuals into wood fibre. Most commonly used as a base for kitchen cupboard doors and drawer fronts, which are usually then covered with a painted finish or laminate.
Melamine / melamine face board (MFB)	A laminated plastic finish applied over chipboard. White melamine face board is the most common material used to manufacture kitchen carcasses.
Out of square	When walls and or floors are not completely level or do not meet one another at a 90° angle. This would require a 'filler' to be used in order to conceal these inconsistencies.
Painted MDF Doors	Specialised paint is applied to MDF doors for a paint finish. The quality and type of paint can vary from supplier to supplier as can the final finish. Completed doors can have a hand painted effect or be finished in a duco spray (refer above to 'duco').
Plastic legs	These are the plastic support systems often used to support the carcasses, level them and raise them off the floor.
Plinth or Kick Plate	Sections between the floor and the bases of floor cupboard.
Porous	A product that can absorb fluids – it is most commonly used to refer to stone surfacing.
Post-form	A type of surfacing material where a laminate is adhered to a substrate to create a kitchen top.
Pull out pantry	Pull-out shelves which can help create and maintain a more efficient kitchen work space, most commonly used for storing groceries, as you can utilise more of the available storage space in cabinets.
Push to open	Also referred to as 'Tipmatic', doors and/or drawers which are fitted with a mechanism which allows them to open gently with a light press on the front, and to close in the same manner. No handles are necessary.
Profile	The outer and/or inner edge detail/finish of either a worktop, door, light panel and capping.
Quartz or engineered stone	A man made material, compiled by using a crushed mixture of natural quartz and resin.
Runners	Small devices that are used to facilitate fluid motion during opening and closing of a drawer.
Satin finish	A paint finish that creates a finish with no sheen.

Scotia / Cornice / Capping	Decorative finish applied to the tops of wall units.
Semi-Solid Doors	Doors constructed from solid wood framework with a veneered centre panel. Also referred to as a 'Five Piece Flat Panel' door.
Solid Doors	Doors constructed entirely from solid, natural timber. These can be completely flat (usually in a 16mm, 18mm or 22mm thickness), or can have a raised, paneled detail.
Solid Surfacing	A homogeneous, non-porous man-made surface that can be used for counter tops. It is manufactured from a resin base and can be formed into different shapes and sizes.
Snagging	The process of going through your kitchen once it has been completed and identifying any issues that need to be remedied.
Soft close	Doors or drawers which are fitted with a mechanism that ensure the doors do not slam closed but rather close gently and quietly.
Straight Grain	Grain that aligns with the main axis of a length of timber.
Substrate	The underlying surface either chipboard or MDF to which a substance is applied to create a finished product.
Templates	A cardboard or flexi-board guideline. Often used by stone or countertop specialists in the 'mapping' and measuring of kitchen counter tops or when preparing to make a cut-out in the surfacing material for appliances, sinks and accessories.
Thermal shock	A sudden temperature fluctuation causing stress in a granite, quartz or marble stone which can cause the stone to crack.
Ultra matt	A finish that reflects no light and has no sheen this can be achieved with a laminate and some specialised paints.
Veneer	Paper thin strips of natural timber that are stitched together to form a 'sheet' which is then laminated onto a substrate of either chipboard or MDF.
Wrap	Particle board that is covered with a micron foil that is applied with an adhesive, heat and a pressure press. The capacity of the pressure press, as well as the type of adhesive used, can determine the accuracy and longevity of the adhesion of the foil to the substrate.

Kitchen [kich-uhn]

- a room or area where food is prepared and cooked.

- a set of fitments and units that are sold together and fixed in place in a kitchen: *a fully fitted kitchen at a bargain price.*