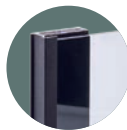
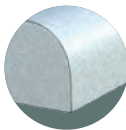
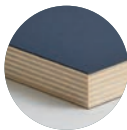


KITCHEN MATERIALS

Understanding your kitchen material choices - advantages, disadvantages and maintenance.



MATERIAL	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	MAINTENANCE
Porcelain or sintered material Made from high-fired clay, porcelain/ sintered materials can be used for surfacing, cladding and doors. It is known for their durability and resistance to moisture and staining, often featuring a smooth, glossy finish.	• High resistant to moisture and humidity. • Scratch resistant. • Available in various colours and designs.	• Will require specialised hardware to install due to the weight. • Can be more expensive than traditional materials. • Replacement required if damaged. • Can chip easily if bumped on the edges • Needs the stable support of a substrate material in most applications.	• Wipe with a damp cloth. • Avoid abrasive cleaners.
Quartz or Engineered stone Engineered from natural quartz crystals mixed with resins and pigments, quartz worktops are non-porous and highly durable, offering a sleek, modern aesthetic. Mostly known as a surfacing material you can clad it for a door application. This is costly and makes the door very heavy.	• Non-porous and resistant to stains and bacteria. • Scratch resistant. • Provides a modern look and feel. • Available in various colours and designs and textures.	• Will require specialised hardware to install due to the weight. • Can be sensitive to heat and impact • Can be more expensive than traditional materials	• Clean with mild soap and water – avoid harsh chemicals.
Wood Veneer A thin layer of fine wood is bonded to a less expensive substrate such as chipboard or Supawood (MDF). 2mm – 3mm layer of real wood, with 2mm-6mm solid wood edging Product Finish Options Available: • Clear Varnish (natural colour) • Stains • Oiled sealant and stain	• Less costly than hardwood but normally more expensive than a laminate, melamine or wrap. • Grain matching and inlays add visual interest but grain matching can add to the cost. • Look and feel of natural wood, at lower cost. • The use of stains and oils, especially on timbers like white oak - can give you a modern subtle and timeless wood finish.	• Carved or routed details cannot be achieved on the surface of the door. • Excess heat and moisture can warp and crack veneers. • Repairs are costly • Stains differently to solid wood. • Matching of grain and colour can be timeous, costly and difficult. • This is a natural product and one piece of timber can look quite different to another due to how the tree has grown. It is not always possible to get consistency in grain, shading and colour.	• Maintenance is the same as for hardwood doors. • Take care to avoid damage to the veneer that would expose the plywood or particle board underneath. • If you should need to replace a door the colour of the new door will differ to that of the existing doors. This is normal and the door should darken to match the other doors in time.
Laminate (HPL and CPL) A substrate panel like chipboard or Supawood (MDF) is covered with the laminate which is made up of resin-impregnated layers of paper. These are bonded together by means of heat and pressure using a special adhesive. Available in High pressure laminates (HPL) and Continuous pressure laminates (CPL). CPL doors / panels are less expensive than HPL doors / panels. Product Finish Options Available: • Satin, solid colours • Textured solid colours and woodgrain • Matte, Super Matte and fingerprint resistant • High Gloss	• Laminates are hard wearing and durable and can withstand high impact, heat, scratching, scuffing, staining, boiling water and steam • Available in large range of colours, patterns, wood grains and finishes. • Suitable for large vertical and horizontal application so can be used for cladding and surfacing. • Antibacterial properties in some makes. • Anti Fingerprint technology in some makes. • Nano self-healing technology in some makes.	• Laminates can't be refinished. Scratches are difficult to repair unless you opt for a version with nano technology where minor scratches can easily be repaired. • Dark seams can be unsightly. • CPL doors have a lower impact and abrasion resistance than HPL.	• Wipe with water and a non-abrasive household cleaner. • Keep seams and edges dry. • Soft cloth, damp not wet, soapy water, no abrasive cleaning liquids. • There are very specific cleaning instructions for matte, super matte and fingerprint resistant finishes in order to retain their finish and properties – please follow the instructions specific to the make you have purchased.
Melamine Melamine is a seamless, low pressure composite board that consists of resin-impregnated paper, layered on particle board substrates such as chipboard or Supawood (MDF) bonded by means of adhesive, heat and pressure. Product Finish Options Available: • Peen (plain) • Matte • High Gloss • Textures • Alpine/Silhouette (Woodgrain feel)	• Low cost -mass produced and readily available. • Wide range of colours and finishes • Standard 1mm/2mm PVC Edge protects against everyday wear and tear. • Standard industry choice for carcass interiors due to scratch resistance, strength and costs (only if A grade board is used in its manufacture) • Woodgrain look now imitates timber at a fraction of the costs of natural wood.	• Melamine faced board can chip or crack and has a lower abrasion, impact and scratch resistance. • If edging is faulty – prone to water damage.	• Treat gently. • Clean as you would a laminate. • Soft cloth, damp not wet, soapy water, no abrasive cleaning liquids.



MATERIAL	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	MAINTENANCE
Solid/Semi Solid timber A solid timber door is heavy and consists of a solid frame and solid interior panel. A semi-solid door is lighter and consists of a solid timber frame with a veneer interior panel. Hardwoods like oak, cherry and maple are warm and age gracefully. Softwoods like pine tend to be lighter in colour and have a wider grain. Finishes can range from light to dark, glossy or satin. They may be distressed, clear finished or colour washed. Product Finish Options Available: • Clear Varnish (natural colour) • Stains • Oiled sealant and stain	• High-end, luxury finish • Natural product • Gives natural warmth to the home • With the use of stains and oils, especially the use of white oak – can give you a modern subtle and timeless wood finish.	• Hardwoods can shrink, warp or crack over time in high humidity areas. • Softwoods are more susceptible to abuse, nicks, scratching, warping and cracks. • Solid wood costs more than veneer, laminate, wrap or melamine. • One piece of timber can look quite different to another due to how the tree has grown. It is not always possible to get consistency in grain, shading and colour. Your kitchen company will not match the grain from one door to the next unless you specifically request this and there will be an additional cost for this. • Often companies quote on a solid door but supply a semi solid door. If you want a fully solid door you must specify this and you will probably be limited to certain profile finishes.	• Never use abrasive products on wood. Alcohol or solvents can soften or fog the finish. • Use a mild household cleaner and wipe with a damp cloth. • Keep moisture out of the seams and joints to minimise swelling and warping. • If you should need to replace a door the colour of the new door will differ to that of the existing doors. This is normal and the door should darken to match the other doors in time.
Duco / spray painted finish • Origin of name: Duco = A dual (2) component spray varnish • Sprayed, dried and resprayed over a few cycles to create a satin finish onto Supawood (MDF). The MDF is generally 16mm, but can also be 22mm, thick. Not to be confused with DIY or hand painted doors and restorations. Product Finish Options Available: • Satin Feel • High Gloss • Distressed	• Modern contemporary product • MDF is cut and sanded before painting – this allows for endless options on profiles, patterns, built in grip handles • Massive range of colours available • Smooth easy to clean surface with no exposed seams • Relatively water resistant with good maintenance	• Can be susceptible to chipping & scratching. • Is dependent on the skill of spray painter. • Spray finishing is relatively expensive. • High Gloss finishes would be more expensive than matt. • If there is damage it can be repaired quite easily but a exact colour match cannot always be guaranteed.	• Very easy to clean due to smooth surface and no seams. • Treat like a car – the varnish is almost identical. • If the door is starting to catch or wear make sure it is adjusted ASAP to prevent long term damage. • Do not let water stand on the surface for any length of time.
Wrap (Ridged Thermal Foil vacuum board) A thermo plastic foil is adhered to a Supawood MDF. Wrap doors are made by coating the substrate MDF with high performance adhesive, applying the thermo foil plastic and then applying vacuum pressure and heat to the door. After this process, the vinyl is drawn to the shape of the MDF which can have various profiles. Product Finish Options Available: • Satin solid colour • High Gloss • Matte • Woodgrain	• Foils available in a variety of colours • Printing process ensures colour/grain matching consistency • They are resistant to most chemicals, greases, oils and to swelling and water damage providing the foil has been correctly bonded to the substrate. • No sharp corners or edging • Can be press formed to follow the contours of virtually any shape of door. • Raw materials from a renewable source and can be recycled. • Non solvent water-based glue is normally used. • Most reputable manufacturers use E rated materials.	• There are different processes to foil wrap a door. Resilience to delamination and shrinkage may vary with the method used. A high pressure lamination process will lead to greater durability, sharper detail and hardness than other production methods. • Some doors may discolour slightly over time if the foil is inferior and not UV stabilized. Most manufacturers guarantee their products. • Foils can shrink if exposed to continuous excessive heat particularly if installed next to an oven that has not been ventilated properly or if the bonding process has not been done correctly. • Due to the manufacturing process you are unable to get the currently sharp edged aesthetic that is popular – edges are softer and more rounded.	• Treat gently. • Clean as you would a laminate. • Soft cloth, damp not wet, soapy water, no abrasive cleaning.
Glass/aluminium framed glass doors Aluminium framed tempered glass doors. Aluminium frames are available in various colours, finishes and widths. Glass can be clear, patterned, or tinted.	• Durable, modern aesthetic. • Low Maintenance. • Variety of designs and can be suitable to a less modern aesthetic depending on the glass used.	• These are a high-end product, so they fall at the higher end of the cost spectrum. • Condensation on glass when in close proximity to a heat source. • Maintenance and cleaning, interior carcass visibility – neatness.	• Mild detergent and some warm water. • Using a soft sponge or cloth, simply give your frames and hinges a quick wipe, rinsing out your cloth or sponge as you go.