

# KITCHENS

by *Countryside*

## Kitchen and Bath Design Trends for 2021

The National Kitchen + Bath Association (NKBA) surveyed designers, showrooms, dealers, specialists, manufacturers, remodelers, and architects to discover kitchen and bath trends for 2021 and beyond.

Unsurprisingly, many of the trends are related to COVID-19's effect on our lives at home.

Here, Kitchens by Countryside outlines some of the major trends for next year.

### THE COVID FACTOR

COVID has changed the way we live, so it's no surprise that it's also had a major impact on design trends—especially those that relate to our home living spaces. Creating flexible areas for work and school, better storage solutions, and a shift to surfaces that are easy-to-clean are just a few examples of trends expected to shape interior design over the next year.

Professional designers are finding that as customers spend more time in their homes, their desire to spend more on home improvements has also increased. These influences have aided in design decisions focused on enhanced outdoor living areas, convenient kitchens, private, comfortable spaces to conduct video calls or meetings, and technology to aid in home relaxation.



### OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES

Experts are predicting a 65% upswing in outdoor living projects in 2021. Homeowners are expected to upgrade with outdoor kitchens, patios/decks, screened-in porches and three-season rooms, fireplaces, pools/spas/hot tubs, and more. Of those engaging in outdoor projects, a predicted 60% of homeowners will be upgrading existing spaces, while 40% will be creating new outdoor living spaces.

### KITCHEN DESIGNS

With many homeowners considering large renovations, including taking down walls to increase kitchen size, experts predict L-shaped kitchens with large islands will increase in popularity in 2021.

Other popular options for kitchen layouts will include replacing traditional kitchen tables with islands that function as dining tables, conversational areas and remote schooling and home work stations.

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Increased technology options in the kitchen are also expected to grow—with dedicated areas for mobile device and laptop charging, video communication, and emergency power for the refrigerator considered top needs. Other desirable kitchen tech include voice-activated appliances and lighting controls, smudge-proof internet-enabled touch screens and voice-activated faucets.

### *Minimalistic Style Is In*

Predicted popular kitchen styles over the next three years are focused on contemporary, transitional, and organic/natural. Designers describe modern, clean looks coupled with great functionality. In other words, minimal looks with lots of high-end tech on clean, adaptable surfaces. Color palettes will lean towards whites, grays, beiges, blues, blacks, and greens.

### *Innovation leads The Way*

Designers and other experts expect to see the most interesting new products/advances in appliances, cabinets, and faucets. We are expecting to see appliances that connect to smartphones with multiple features, interior organizational accessories in cabinets, and faucets that can heat water to a specific temperature and measure out exact quantities.

### *Kitchen Trends To Watch For*

#### **Kitchen Countertop & Backsplash**

- **Countertops** – Quartz in lighter colors with traditional edges; Island countertops will likely be different colors than the main countertops, setting them apart.
- **Backsplashes** – Slab or long subway tile styles.

#### **Cabinets, Flooring, & Lighting**

- **Cabinetry** – Painted and wood grain, with the island being a complementary color.
- **Flooring** – Hardwood or engineered wood, luxury vinyl wood plank, or ceramic/porcelain tile.
- **Lighting** – Expect to see more under-cabinet lighting, dimmer switches, and mobile device connected lighting.



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*Expect to see more large communal islands and increased technology options in the kitchen.*

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#### **Appliances**

- **Refrigerators** – French door refrigerators that are installed flush, fully integrated, or built-in with stainless steel or integrated door finishes.
- **Dishwashers** – Standard doors over two-drawer styles.
- **Ovens** – convection ovens, steam ovens and microwave drawers are expected to increase in popularity; Gas and induction (replacing traditional electric) cooktops are predicted to be used equally in kitchens.
- **Ventilation hoods** – once seen as a simple functional necessity, these are becoming more decorative and even focal points in kitchens. Most have stainless steel or wood finishes.

#### **Kitchen Lighting**

- Large windows with fewer panes and skylights continue to be popular. Outdoor access ranges from French doors to sliding glass to folding glass doors.

## BATHROOM DESIGNS

Homeowners are changing layouts to make more room in their bathrooms. Top trends include removing bathtubs to increase shower size, taking down walls to increase primary bathroom footprint, and connecting the bath to the closet/dressing area. Other layouts include private toilet areas, separate his/hers bathrooms, sitting areas, and lots of lighting.

In the coming years, look for the most desirable technology trends in bathrooms to be centered around temperature control/smart controls for floors and showers, water conservation tech, motion-sensor controls for lighting, and leak detector sensors with mobile alerts.

*Top trends for bathrooms include larger, private spaces in more contemporary and natural designs.*



### *Clean, Sleek Styles*

The top design trends for bathrooms over the next few years will be contemporary, transitional, and organic/natural. People are looking more for a clean, uncluttered look that is calming and serene. The most popular bathroom colors to accomplish these styles will be whites, grays, blues, and beiges, with accents of greens and blacks.

### *Bathroom Innovations*

Technology enters the bath space with heated shower seats, programmable showers, antimicrobial venting systems, and smart toilets/bidets. Vanity styles are moving away from traditional and more towards floating or free-standing vanities that are easy to clean and maintain.

Other tech solutions coming up in bathrooms include voice-activated, hands-free faucets, integrated televisions in mirrors, and fully integrated systems for all controls in the bathroom.

In general, designers would like more innovation in stylish grab bars, more ADA options, and new styles in vanities with integrated technologies. They are also looking for more sink colors, shapes, and sizes, along with more adaptable lighting solutions.

### *Bath Trends To Watch For*

#### **Vanity Countertops & Cabinets**

- Vanity countertops – expect to see an upswing in designer recommendations of quartz in lighter colors. Floating vanities and free-standing vanities will be on-trend
- Cabinets – the trend is toward full painted wood or full wood grain with flat panel/slab or recessed panel doors in a medium tone. Decorative hardware will continue to be popular.

#### **Storage & Mirrors**

- Linen storage will be a must for any bathroom, as are vanities and medicine cabinets equipped with electrical outlets. Interesting mirror trends include connected mirrors with internet access and backlit mirrors.



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### Sinks & Flooring

- Sinks – Under-mount in vitreous china, porcelain/cast iron, or composite will be on-trend. Predominant colors will be white, followed by beige/bisque/bone. Matte and brushed finishes in black, nickel, and some chrome with motion/hands-free features will be the most popular for bathroom faucets.
- Flooring – Expect ceramic or porcelain tile heated flooring to dominate trends for several years.

### Bathroom Lighting

- Designers are planning on several lighting sources in mirrors, showers, recessed lighting, sconces, and vanities. Many are expected to incorporate dimmer switches, motion sensors and voice controls.



### Bathtub & Shower Options

- The trend will be away from small tile mosaics and toward large tile, slabs, or long subway tiles. When space allows, designers will be recommending separate tubs and showers, or shower-only configurations. Tub styles are moving toward freestanding or soaking tubs of composite materials or porcelain/cast iron.
- Showers – will have features applicable to family aging, like built-in seats, zero-clearance entry, grab bars, and hand-held showerheads. Glass will trend towards clear with a no door-open shower entrance or swinging shower door. The size of showers is trending toward two-person showers.

### Toilets, Venting, Sustainability

- Smart toilets, low-water flow toilets, and small bidet toilet seats are expected to be popular. Humidity exhaust fans with steam-sensors and energy-efficient exhaust fans are also going to be trending. For sustainability and safety, look for LED lightbulbs, grab bars, water-efficient showerheads, and low-flow sink faucets.

## CUSTOMIZE A PLAN TO FIT YOUR STYLE & BUDGET

As you can see from the data, many of our design choices will be influenced by COVID in the coming year. As people spend more time at home, the desire to upgrade to more clean, livable, comfortable spaces has become a top priority.

At Kitchens by Countryside, we're here to listen to your needs and customize a functional plan that perfectly fits your style and budget. Whatever your remodeling needs—from kitchens and baths to outdoor living spaces, our knowledgeable designers are here to help. And right now, our consultations are free.

Call **585.349.8100** or visit **kitchensbycountryside.com** to book your consultation. Or, stop by our beautiful showroom at 415 S. Union Street in Spencerport, NY to meet our designers and get inspired by the latest design trends in all new mock kitchens and bathrooms. We look forward to working with you!



### ABOUT THIS REPORT

Commissioned by The NKBA, this trends report included observations from a group comprised of 52% designers and 48% showrooms, dealers, specialists, remodelers, manufacturers, contractors, and architects. 95% of respondents are from the US, and 5% are from Canada. 78% are NKBA members. The National Kitchen + Bath Association (NKBA) is a non-profit trade group that promotes professionalism in the kitchen and bath industry. It was established in 1963 as a network of kitchen dealers and has evolved into a premier association of kitchen and bath design professionals.

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