



GET THAT HIGH GLOSS LOOK IN YOUR KITCHEN

For several years high gloss has been a buzz word for the kitchen. The look offers a clean, sophisticated finish that has allowed it to remain a popular kitchen finish for several years. There is more than one way to achieve this look, and to adapt it to work with your tastes, to ensure your new kitchen stays on trend.

When most people think high gloss, they think of a lacquered or duco paint finish. This was one of the first forms of high gloss that came onto the market. The door is made from a material called MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard). Several coats of either acrylic or water-based paint are then applied to the door in a methodical process. When done well, this process should leave you with extra coats on the edges of the door where water may drip onto the door or where bumps and scrapes are more likely to occur, making the door more durable. A well painted door will leave you with a smooth, highly reflective high gloss finish. Poorly sprayed high gloss doors can have inconsistencies in the gloss as well as small bumps in it that look like orange peel.

It is vital that if you opt for a painted high gloss door that it is manufactured by a specialist in the field. Getting a good quality and durable finish in high gloss is not easy and not only depends on the quality of the material and paint, but also the skill of the team managing the process. If the doors are incorrectly dried and transported they can be easily damaged.

Remember that matching a paint colour 100% is next to impossible, particularly if you choose a darker or blended colour. If, down the road, you need to replace a door you can expect a slight colour variation. A benefit of a painted finish is that small scrapes and chips can be touched up, if needed, to keep your doors looking good. It is important to note that the type and quality of paint used by the manufacturer, will dictate the durability of your colour. White, in particular, can yellow over time if a non-yellowing paint is not used. Care and maintenance is fairly easy. Doors can be cleaned with a soft cloth, warm water and a mild soap like Sunlight.

An Acrylic or PVC finish is achieved by bonding a thick, durable laminate to an MDF door. This type of finish has been around for many years, with the high gloss look coming into popularity as an upmarket finish more recently. Colour and pattern ranges can be vast, depending on the laminate supplier. Up until recently, high gloss laminates have only been available as an imported product, keeping it at the higher end of the price spectrum. However recently, locally manufactured product has come onto the market making the finish more accessible, price wise.

The reflective nature of this product helps to create a sense of light and space in a room. It is perfect for a kitchen with low light, or a smaller kitchen, where you are wanting to create a sense of space.

Ensuring a good colour match later down the line is fairly easy, if the laminate remains in production from the primary supplier. The laminate, if from a good supplier, should not deteriorate over time and should retain its original brightness and colour if looked after properly. It can withstand prolonged exposure to ultraviolet light and, if edged properly, moisture.

The trick to longevity in this finish is in ensuring the manufacturer knows what they are doing when they edge the door. If poorly edged, or a poor quality edging is used, then the doors ability to withstand moisture will be compromised as well as its aesthetics. A company who is experienced at handling high gloss laminates will know how to edge the doors in a seamless fashion. Maintenance is easy, with the doors only needing to be wiped down with a soft cloth, warm water and a mild detergent much like a duco door. Light scratches can be buffed out, however you should consult your supplier before trying to do this.



deterioration in colour or quality, and providing the main supplier does not discontinue the colour, getting a replacement door to match should be quite easy. Usually the wrap finish is more accessible, price wise, than the imported laminate or duco option. A wrap foil can also be placed over a profiled or shaped door, allowing this finish to be used for more ornate door designs than the laminate, which is more popular in a modern square line door. Maintenance is easy, once again using a soft cloth, warm water and a mild non-abrasive detergent.

Whichever option you choose to achieve your high gloss look, it is important to utilise it in a contemporary manner, ensuring your new kitchen won't date too quickly. In the past, designers suggested that whole kitchens were done in a single or dual tone high gloss finish. The single tone option (normally a neutral tone like white or off-white) remains a popular and sensible choice, particularly for small kitchens where there is a need for light and neutrality. More often now, we are seeing the high gloss option being paired with a timber finish or an ultra-matt finish. These combinations provide a beautiful contrast of tone, texture and colour and work very well together.

Once you have your beautiful high gloss kitchen installed, remember the rule that applies to all kitchens: Keep it safe from water. Don't clean your doors with very wet cloths, don't allow water to stand on the door surfaces and edges; and never allow a leak to go unchecked.

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The last way of achieving that high gloss look is by using a high gloss wrap. Once again the basic door is made from MDF which can be cut and profiled if wanted. A foil, in this case the high gloss finish, is then heat pressed and glued onto the door using a vacuum technique. Check to see how your manufacturer makes their doors, as some opt to apply high pressure onto the door in the foiling process, as an added assistance to the bonding process.

Wrap is a very durable product which is easy to maintain. Much like a laminate finish, if the foil is from a good supplier, there should be no