

Color Drenching Kitchen Checklist

One hue across cabinets, walls, trim, and ceiling — planned in the right order.

1 • Pick the color by undertone

- ☐ Note the undertone (warm yellow-green vs. cool blue-gray) before falling for a paint name
- ☐ Paint a large foam board AND one spare cabinet door — never judge from a swatch card
- ☐ Live with the samples for a full day: cool morning light and warm afternoon sun
- ☐ Hold samples against your countertop stone and flooring before deciding

2 • Assign a sheen to every surface

- ☐ Cabinets: satin or semi-gloss enamel (durability + soft reflection)
- ☐ Walls: eggshell or matte (absorbs light, recedes)
- ☐ Trim: semi-gloss, one step above the walls, so profiles catch a highlight
- ☐ Ceiling: flat (calm overhead, hides minor flaws)

3 • Plan the contrast — materials, not more paint

- ☐ Light quartz or veined stone countertops to lighten the field
- ☐ Warm wood (island, flooring, or open shelving) for grain and warmth
- ☐ Hardware as punctuation: brushed brass warms, matte black sharpens, polished nickel stays quiet

4 • Layer the lighting for the color

- ☐ Ceiling or recessed lights for general coverage
- ☐ Under-cabinet lighting to wash the backsplash and counters
- ☐ Pendants or a fixture over the island for task light
- ☐ Bulbs matched at 2700K–3000K across every fixture (mixed temps split the color)

5 • Sequence the work

- ☐ Settle the palette during design, alongside layout and storage
- ☐ Paint ceiling and walls before finished cabinet doors go back on
- ☐ Stone in after base cabinets are set and painted; hardware last, after full cure
- ☐ DIY cabinet painting: full prep, color-matched primer, and cure time between coats

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