Kitchen Cabinet Paint Colors Checklist

Work through these checks before you order paint or start a remodel. Companion article: https://kitchenremodelchulavistaca.com/kitchen-cabinet-paint-colors/

- [ ] **Note which way the windows face**
  South- and west-facing kitchens get strong, warm light; north-facing and shaded kitchens get cooler, flatter light. Color is judged against that light.

- [ ] **Compare warm white vs. cool white**
  Hold both side by side in the kitchen's light. Warm whites suit wood floors and brass; cool whites suit gray stone and matte black hardware.

- [ ] **Match the color to the cabinet style**
  Shaker suits nearly every color; flat panels suit bold and dark colors; raised-panel doors suit lighter, classic palettes.

- [ ] **Plan a two-tone split if unsure**
  A darker color on the island or lower cabinets with light uppers lets you try a bold color without committing the whole kitchen to it.

- [ ] **Use large swatches, not small chips**
  Paint at least a foot-square swatch on poster board, or order sample doors. Small chips hide the undertones a large area shows.

- [ ] **Choose the hardware finish first**
  Brass, matte black, and nickel each change how a color reads. Decide the hardware finish before the paint is finalized.

- [ ] **Test colors at three times of day**
  Check swatches in the morning, at midday, and in the evening under the kitchen's own lights. A color that passes all three is a safe choice.

- [ ] **Match undertones, not just color family**
  A greige with a violet undertone can clash with warm granite; a white with a blue undertone can clash with warm wood. Check undertones against the countertop.

- [ ] **Pair the color with the countertop**
  Bring the countertop and backsplash samples to the paint decision. The four materials have to work as a set, not as separate choices.

- [ ] **Decide the sheen with the color**
  Satin is the standard for painted cabinets; semi-gloss reads brighter and shows flaws more; matte hides flaws but marks easily. Test in the final sheen.

- [ ] **Move swatches around the kitchen**
  Check the color next to the window, the range, and the countertop. The color changes with the light in each spot.

- [ ] **Keep the paint name and code on file**
  Record the exact paint name, color code, and sheen so touch-ups match. Note the brand and line as well as the color.