

SUITE SUCCESS





**Splashes
of colour**

Adding Colour to Your Kitchen

By Yanic Simard

Photographs courtesy of
Brandon Barre (page 21) and Valerie Wilcox (page 19 and 20)

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Kitchens are such an important part of a home of any size—they act as a central hub for work and relaxation, and in a condo especially, they tend to be the visual feature of the main space. If you want to add a little liveable colour in your kitchen, it can seem daunting, but there are actually many ways to add a small splash of a new hue or two without going overboard.

ACCENT DOORS

A huge trend in kitchen design is the two-tone effect, where two different finishes are used for the cabinets – typically one for the uppers and another for the lowers. By replacing just a few doors, you can personalize your look without scrapping the entire set of cabinets. For example, if you have all white cabinets, you can give just the few upper cabinets new doors in a breezy blue or minty green, and keep the original doors to put back before you move. If you ask your condo board or the previous owner, they may be able to tell you the exact cabinet line to make finding a size match easier, but often doors are standard sizes regardless.

COUNTER STOOLS

A condo kitchen usually doesn't have a lot of furniture, so don't let your counter stools be a missed opportunity. Look for an option with attractive patterned upholstery, or painted metal legs in a fun colour. Modern stools with wiry metal frames work especially well in bright colours, making their thin lines pop and adding just the right amount of a bold hue. If you choose a stool with an optional seat pad or slipcover, get a bold option and a neutral option so you can switch them out seasonally.

PENDANT LIGHTS

Hanging light fixtures are a natural focal point and a smart place to add a little color splash. Try blown glass shades in rich hues for some exotic flair, or schoolhouse-style metal shades powder-coated in a classic colour (like hunter green or brick red) for a beautiful transitional appeal. If you don't have an existing power connection for pendants, consider routing power through a dropped ceiling panel or using plug-in fixtures and letting the visible cord become part of the effect.







OPEN SHELVING

Chances are your kitchen already has some captivating colour hidden behind closed doors. Installing some open shelves gives you a place to display colourful glassware, festive bowls and plates, or copper cookware and other attractive items. You can also easily convert a cabinet into a display space by removing the doors or swapping them for a pair with glass inserts.

RUNNER RUGS

If a rug can survive being trod on by snowy boots and muddy shoes, it can survive the occasional kitchen spill. Use a colourful runner rug to add a variety of hues and some interesting pattern and texture to your kitchen in an unexpected place. The best part? A rug that size will be easy to roll up and take to the cleaners in the event of an epic pasta disaster or red wine mishap.

BRASS HARDWARE

Warm metal hardware such as cabinet pulls walk the line between colourful accent and neutral classic. If you want your kitchen to feel a bit more lively and inviting without adding a bold hue, introduce some brushed brass

or muted bronze to get a golden glow that won't overwhelm you. This is another idea that is very easy to undo when you move on – you can always keep the original hardware tucked in the back of a closet.

ACCENT WALLS

These days there are more options than ever for creating an accent wall. Try a wallpaper to enrich your palette with multiple tones – you can always find a stick-on version if you're shy about committing, or get a custom mural printed to make a one-of-a-kind statement. A painted half-wall can let you use a bright colour just half way or three quarters of the way up, so you don't get a square inch more of colour than you want. You can even paint on a diagonal to create a fun and energetic effect – there are truly no rules, and paint can always be painted over.

Want more colourful ideas? Visit our boutique design firm at tidg.ca or find us on instagram via [@tidgboutique](https://www.instagram.com/tidgboutique).

