Five Tips to Warm Up your White Kitchen

by Kate Davidson

For quite a while, white kitchens have been dominating the trend and I am often asked to design them. They tend to be clean, contemporary and certainly easily customized with your personal creativity. On the other hand, an all-white palette can sometimes look (and feel) cold and uninviting. Here are some quick ways to instantly warm up your white kitchen.

1. PICK ANY SHADE: There are many different shades of white to choose from. Blue-tinged whites are cool by nature, while whites featuring yellow undertones are visually warmer. Opt for a shade on the warm side of the spectrum to subtly warm up the whole interior.

TIP: To avoid a war of whites, coordinate all of the white elements in your space including walls, countertops, backsplash, floors, ceiling and anything else to ensure your colour selections will not clash.

2. GO WITH THE GRAIN: Wooden floors are a wonderful way to warm up a white kitchen; they have interesting earthly tones and textures and feel pleasantly against your feet. Consider a grainy hardwood or hand-scraped floor; warm-toned stone or tile will also achieve a warmer aesthetic.
3 VARIETY AND VISUAL INTEREST: When working with an all-white palette, ensure you incorporate a variety of textures and finishes to create visual interest. Matte-finished cabinets go beautifully against a glossy countertop or backsplash, which happens to be the second-biggest impact point after countertops.

   TIP: Keep countertops clear and clutter-free to show off your finishes.

4 NON-COMMITTAL COLOUR: Warm up your white kitchen with pops of colour. Be brave, bold and have fun! Brightly coloured window treatments, furnishings, accessories, small appliances, dishes or artwork can deliver the vibrancy your inner design aficionado so craves, without having to make a big investment or commitment.

5 DRESSED TO THE NINES: Just like the iconic little black dress, so too does your white kitchen need the right accessories to bring it to life. Your hardware and lighting – what I like to call the jewelry of the home – is worth the extra investment.

Remodeling your kitchen is a huge and expensive undertaking, but it remains the most-popular home renovation project, with good reason. If done right, you will enjoy this space for many years to come, and potentially increase the resale value of your home - if you can bring yourself to part with it.

Here is a final word to the wise: Plan before you renovate. Understand all of the tasks you will be doing in your new kitchen and design accordingly. Is this space going to be used for entertainment as well? Or doing homework?

Plan to consult and hire a design professional like myself for some extra guidance on the design decisions to avoid making costly mistakes.