the spruce

Designers Say These 4 Kitchen Paint Colors Have Been Everywhere in 2026

By Sarah Lyon | Updated on September 2, 2026



Credit: Ashley Montgomery Design

KEY POINTS

- Earthy greens and dark olive tones are trending for their timeless, grounded, and natural appeal.
- Neutral shades like greige and mushroom offer warmth and versatility without feeling sterile or bold.
- Homeowners are embracing these colors to add personality and depth while keeping kitchens feeling organic and inviting.

Throughout 2026, designers have been seeing four standout paint colors majorly taking over kitchen cabinets for the year.

Below, three pros speak to the trending color palettes for kitchen cabinets while providing useful styling tips, too. Whether you're craving a dose of color or gravitate toward neutrals in your cooking space, there's something for every aesthetic.

MEET THE EXPERT

- Craig Gritzen is the founder and principal interior designer at Curated Style Collective.
- Tracy Morris is the principal of Tracy Morris Design.
- Kelly Emerson is a senior designer at Aidan Design.

Greens



Credit: Ashley Montgomery Design

Green kitchen cabinets in 2026 aren't the sages, deep teals, or jewel-toned emeralds we saw about five years ago; rather, they're more muddy and olive-toned.

“They bring a calm pop of color to a kitchen,” Craig Gritzen, founder and principal designer of Curated Style Collective, says. They’re “earth tones; they feel grounded and pair well with creamy whites, wood tones, brass, and natural stones.”

Tracy Morris, the principal of Tracy Morris Design, is excited that dark greens (still skewing warmer rather than cooler) have also been taking center stage.

“Dark green cabinets bring a rich, grounded quality to the kitchen that feels both organic and refined,” she says. “Homeowners are drawn to dark green because it feels timeless yet fresh, offering personality without feeling trendy or fleeting.”

Greige and Mushroom



Credit: John Keeble / Getty Images

If you're not looking to go with white cabinets but aren't sure if you're ready to go bold, either, don't worry. There are plenty of middle-ground choices to consider that happen to be majorly on-trend this year. Designers share that colors like greige and mushroom are also on the rise as it pertains to kitchen cabinetry.

"Warm greige, an artful blend of gray and beige, has emerged as a favorite for those who want neutrality with nuance," Morris says. "It feels softer and more approachable than cool gray, bringing warmth to the kitchen while still acting as a versatile backdrop."

Gritzen cites mushroom's popularity for similar reasons, noting that homeowners are looking for a less sterile option than white that isn't too bold.

"Mushroom feels more elevated than white and organic without going dark," he says. "This color is a great choice for homeowners who want warmth in their kitchen with keeping a more neutral tone."

Terracotta and Red-Brown



Credit: Ashley Montgomery Design

Those seeking warmer colors may want to consider weaving terracottas and red-browns into their kitchens. Gritzen recommends pairing these with brass or natural wood accents.

And you don't have to go all in on saturated red if you don't want to. Gritzen notes that soft terracotta and pinkish brown cabinets are on the rise "because homeowners are craving personality in their space but want them to feel natural and grounded."

Charcoal Blues



Credit: Design by Aidan Design / Photo by Robert Radifera

Dark cornflower, almost charcoal blues are nostalgic-meets-contemporary.

“It’s gaining popularity because it feels both current and classic, grounding the space while still making a stylish statement,” Morris says.

Plus, it’s a little more unexpected than navy walls or cabinets in kitchens.

“Charcoal blue cabinets offer a sophisticated alternative to traditional navy or gray, combining the calm of blue with the depth of a darker tone,” Morris says. “This color adds visual weight and modern elegance to a kitchen, especially when paired with light countertops or warm metallic accents.”

Kelly Emerson, a senior designer at Aidan Design, agrees that blue-blacks are in vogue and are “a great compromise” for those seeking something that falls between blue greens and deep blacks.