

## Trends in Fixture Finishes

Kitchens and baths have gone beyond brass and chrome to bold new finishes. If you're looking to revamp your space, keep reading for the latest design trends.

### MATTE

Bye, shine. The hottest thing in fixture finishes is matte. Matte nickel remains the most popular among renovators, trendspotters at Houzz say, but you can find fixtures in a range of colors. Matte black will match many looks, while matte gold makes a statement without being too bold.

Caring for matte finishes is easy, too. Avoid waxes and filling agents, as that matte look is achieved with a microscopically rough surface. Also steer clear of any harsh chemicals that can damage your smart new look. The best thing is the simplest, most manufacturers say: plain soap and water.

### MIXED METALS

Gone with the shine are matching metal fixtures throughout the home. Houzz says more and more renovators are choosing to mix metals, even in the same piece. Look for matte black paired with gold or chrome in a variety of finishes for a touch of elegance. Kohler even debuted a line of ombre-look faucets this year that fade



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### REAL ESTATE 101

#### Clean it Up

For routine cleaning with household products, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension recommends a non-abrasive cleaner to prevent dulling surfaces. The Extension recommends baking soda diluted with warm water or sprinkled on a damp sponge; automatic dishwasher detergent (use 2 tablespoons in 1 gallon hot water for mildew or hard water deposits); washing soda, a more alkaline alternative to baking soda that's good for mildew; powdered all-purpose cleaner sprinkled on a damp sponge; or trisodium phosphate sprinkled on a damp sponge, or dilute 1 tablespoon in 1 gallon hot water (protect skin as this is highly alkaline). For stainless steel, use a mildly acidic cleaner, such as vinegar or lemon juice, or a commercially available cleaner formulated for stainless steel.

from one finish to another. Mixing metals can add dimension to a space. Just try

to keep to the same finish (all shiny, all brushed, all matte) to keep it looking intentional.

### GOLD

Gold is back in, too, especially in easy-care matte or

brushed finishes. If you can't quite go all the way there, look for finishes in a muted champagne bronze. This warm hue makes a great change from the colder looks of nickel and chrome. Designers are also debuting new patinas that offer even more character and warmth to this classic metal. Want to really put together an eye-catching look? An all white bath with gold accents. Timeless.

### LIVING FINISHES

A living finish (such as bronze and copper) has a patina that changes over time. These require a little more care than your average brushed nickel, but they reward you with a beautiful, unique color. Ask your local kitchen and bath design center for pieces with a living finish and follow their care instructions carefully for the best look.

### COLOR

Want to really put your space on trend? Look for bold, bright colors, especially in unexpected pieces like shower enclosures. Set them off with black matte fixtures like handles and faucets to really make the color pop. If you're afraid of taking the big leap with a new shower enclosure, put a toe in the water with colorful switch plates or door-knobs.



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### HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

**Special warranty deed:** a deed that warrants the title only with respect to acts of the seller and the interests of anyone claiming by, through, or under him.

SOURCE: Homeclosing101.org

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