

Remodeling your kitchen? Why not start with the Countertops...

-Wilsonart Offers Tips and Palettes for Breathtaking Kitchen Remodels-

TEMPLE, Texas (Spring 2009) – When it comes to remodeling a kitchen it's easy to be swayed by the latest glittering product. But one of the most important aspects to consider is also the most basic—color.

While wall space in kitchens is often sparse, the same is not true for countertops. Since the countertop generally represents 30 percent of the surface space in your kitchen, it's the best place to start a design and pull the color palette for the walls, floors, cabinets and even appliances. Below are several tips from Countertop.com on picking a color palette for your kitchen with confidence.

Subtle Color Variations

Countertops offer the best opportunity to introduce a balanced, multi-colored design within a kitchen space. Whether matching to granite or man-made products like Wilsonart® HD® High Definition® Laminate, the most popular countertops for today's homes have the many-colored, stone-like appearance that generally offer earthy, natural palette combinations.

"These colors," says Gwen Petter, director of surface design at Wilsonart International, "create a unique color scheme that gives your kitchen a distinct personality."

There are three options when pairing colors to multi-colored countertops:

- Pair with the dominate or background color in the pattern
- Pair with a secondary color imbedded within the pattern
- Pick out a third color from the pattern to act as an accent color that pairs well and emphasizes the other colors you want to showcase.

When using the first option, it's important to note nothing should—or will—totally match, so don't be disappointed when your flat paint color doesn't have the same luminosity as your countertop.

The second option is often the safest alternative. By picking a color from within the palette of the countertop, you can showcase your attention to detail while emphasizing your favorite hue. Furthermore, when it comes to man-made products like Wilsonart® Laminate, design teams have already thought through the accents to give you hints on what to use.

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The third option creates drama within the space by counter-balancing the color you want to emphasize with a strong accent color. While not for the faint of heart, it can create truly breathtaking results when done correctly.

Dark creams, rich purples, moss greens and smoky blues compliment Wilsonart®
Jeweled Sapphire.



Sedona Spirit, a Wilsonart® HD™ High Definition™ Laminate, pairs beautifully with taupe, gray blues and clay colors for a dramatic effect.

Bold and Beautiful

Perhaps the cabinets and appliances have already established the decorating scheme within your kitchen. Here is an opportunity to introduce a little bright spot by making a decision to use one strong color for the countertops. By using the Product Selection Guide on Countertop.com, you can see what works best with your cabinet color and color group.

Bring home a sample laminate chip from your local kitchen & bath dealer or home center (or order a larger chip from Countertop.com) and leave it on the counter so you can see how it will appear in your kitchen with your lighting. Your eye, as well as family opinion, will help you determine what looks best.

Wilsonart is a leading manufacturer of decorative surfacing products including Wilsonart® HD™ High Definition™ Laminate, Wilsonart® Laminate, Wilsonart® Solid Surface, and Wilsonart® Flooring. The company has been recognized by the Smithsonian Institution's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, *Interior Design* magazine and *Home Magazine* for design excellence.

Wilsonart® International is based in Temple, Texas. For more information, call the Wilsonart Customer Service Hotline at 800-433-3222. Consumers can also visit www.countertop.com and professionals can visit www.wilsonartcontract.com.

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