

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 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, specially in easy-care matte

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 doorknobs.