

Beautiful Backsplashes

Create a timeless focal point in the kitchen with stone slabs, ceramic tiles or bold metal sheets.

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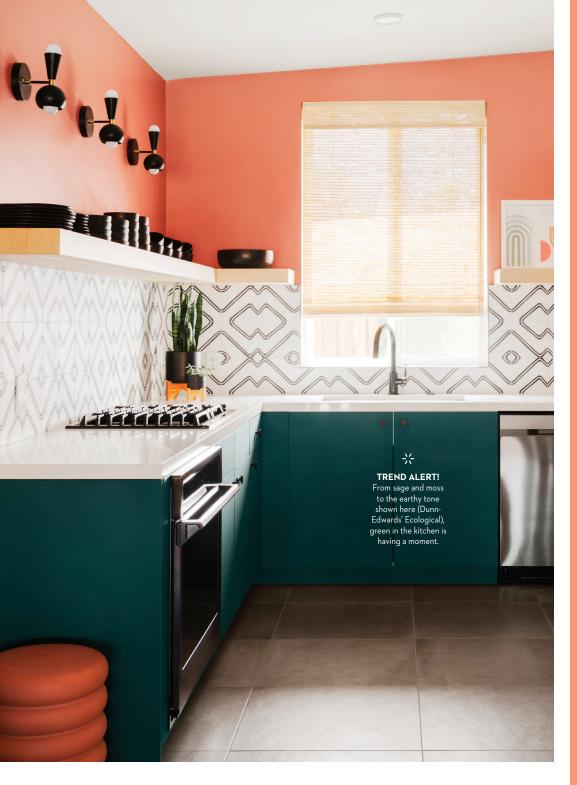
HANG A QUARTZ SHELF

Hints of gray and gold elevate this stone backsplash, which is paired with sage green cabinets and rustic wood details. Not only does the backsplash shelf offer easy access to cooking supplies (think oil and spices), but "you can switch out art to add personality," says Tanya Smith-Shiflett, owner of Unique Kitchens and Baths.

GO FOR GOLD!

Here, rolled brass sheet metal runs from the countertop into a striking backsplash. The reflective finish adds interest and texture, but "the material will age and develop a gorgeous patina over time," says interior designer Annie Downing of Annie Downing Interiors.

Lance Gerber; designed by Michelle Boudreau



CREATE CONTRAST WITH PATTERN AND COLOR

With a vibrant palette inspired by Mexican architecture, interior designer Michelle Boudreau of Michelle Boudreau Design proves that a bold backsplash needn't stand alone. Floating wood shelves create an intentional divide between the terra-cotta-colored upper walls (Dunn-Edwards' Revival Rose) and the geometric tile backsplash. On the cabinets, an earthy hue brings natural landscapes to mind.

HOW TO

Style Your 'Splash

Use these designer tips and tricks.

Do



Pinpoint your aesthetic.

"The trickiest part is creating a strong correlation between the countertops and the backsplash," says Caren Rideau, founder of The Kitchen Design Group.



Find a material that's easy to clean, like stone, ceramic, porcelain or even a budget-friendly option such as vinyl peel-and-stick tiles.



Extend the backsplash.

"If you have shelving, bring the backsplash up to the bottom of the first shelf," says designer Annie Downing, who loves a full-height backsplash.

Don't



Choose textured tiles or stones that are difficult to clean. "This is the place to spend a little extra," says designer Michelle Boudreau.



Use larger tiles. "We recommend smaller than six inches long for visual appeal," says Tanya Smith-Shiflett, owner

of Unique Kitchens and Baths.

Mix too many patterns.

"If your counter is patterned, get a quieter backsplash material, or vice versa," says Rideau.