

# KITCHENS

Transitional styling is the leader once again for kitchen and bath design, according to the most recent NKBA polling, but contemporary is gaining fast and has surpassed traditional design in popularity. Those trends continue patterns of recent years and should surprise no one. The upshot: more frameless cabinet box construction. Beyond offering greater space and access, frameless cabinets have minimal reveals between door and drawer fronts, allowing for sleek, uninterrupted surfaces. Most functional hardware is initially developed for frameless boxes, which is standard in Europe, giving kitchen designers who work with frameless cabinets access to cutting-edge innovations.



1 While transitional and contemporary styling are gaining rapidly in popularity, traditional styling still has its fans, and framed cabinets using panel-processed materials are found in many homes. **Medium density fiberboard (MDF)** is the preferred substrate for painting and coating cabinets. **High pressure laminate (HPL)** has been the top choice for kitchen counters for at least 50 years. It comes in many colors, patterns and textures, and it is durable and affordable. 2 **Textured thermally fused laminate (TFL)** is the perfect choice for vertical applications in kitchens and other rooms, and it beautifully complements a variety of materials used for countertops and horizontal surfaces that require added durability.



2, 6 Frameless cabinets bring sleek, smooth styling that has been popular in Europe for years to North American kitchens and other rooms. 3, 4 The consistency of TFL allows for perfect grain matching across doors and other elements. The fidelity of today's TFL creates a realism that makes it nearly impossible to distinguish between it and cabinets made from solid wood. 5 High pressure laminate (HPL) products offer a broader range of looks than ever before. Modern laminates are as beautiful as they are durable. 6 High-gloss surfaces are growing in popularity in solid colors and patterns for cabinet doors and drawer fronts in contemporary kitchens. Modern high-gloss is scratch resistant and has impeccable surface consistency, and it offers a richness that enhances depth and clarity. In nearly all cases, high-gloss surfaces require an extremely smooth substrate for both coating and laminating. MDF is the unanimous material of choice.



See pages 36-82 for more detailed product descriptions and performance characteristics.