

"For example, we wouldn't normally use handles on a sleek German, modern, minimalist kitchen; instead, we'd leave them for more farmhouse or Shaker-style designs," continues Kate. Whatever you decide on, try and consider more than whether you like the design – they'll need to work with your cabinetry and be easy to use; which leads me to the next question...

Where is the correct placement for each type of handle?

It seems like a straightforward question, but are there any no-no's when choosing a handle design? "There's no one-size-fits-all rule when it comes to handle placement," says Charlie Smallbone, founder of Ledbury Studio. "The right position depends on the design of the cabinet and how you move through the space. Handles should feel natural and comfortable to use, whether they're fitted horizontally or vertically. Sometimes, we leave handles out altogether, especially when we want to create a clean, streamlined look."

Gareth Hull, design lead at Hendel & Hendel, does advise against using T-bar knobs on heavy, integrated appliances, however, "as they can spin under pressure due to the weight balance, especially if the knob doesn't include small 'prongs' on the back."



**"THINK OF
HANDLES
AS YOUR
KITCHEN'S
JEWELLERY –
THEY SHOULD
COMPLEMENT
THE OUTFIT,
NOT CLASH"**

A good solution can be to get the best of both worlds by using a mixture of knobs and pulls. "One option is to put knobs on all your upper cabinets, and pulls on all your lower cabinets," advises Tom. "As you tend to put heavier, clunkier kitchen utensils within easy reach and closer to the ground, it makes sense to have more grip on those drawers by using pulls."

"Alternatively, you could put knobs on all doors and pulls on all drawers, regardless of how high or low they are – there's no right or wrong way to do it. Ultimately, when chosen thoughtfully, with design, usability, and sizing in mind, your hardware can create a thread of sophistication and finalise your culinary space."

What handles are currently on trend?

Timeless, classic-look handles never go out of style, but are there any designs that are having a moment? "Right now, we're crushing on mixed materials – think oak with bronze, or leather-wrapped handles (*yes, really!*)," says Kate. "Fluted, tactile finishes are also making waves – people want to feel the detail as well as see it," she adds.

→



TRENDING

far left 300mm wire recess Amalfine pull handles in Alupew with Satin Nickel, £285 each, Turnstyle Designs.

left Cube edge pull in Dark Bronze Waxed, price on application, Joseph Giles. Photography Neil Hewison

bottom left This project by Annika Rowson (@annika_rowson) features Buster + Punch's smoked bronze closet pull bars for both a tactile and practical aesthetic. Priced £129 each. Photography Gina Fabish





left Echo
Solid cabinet
pull in Vintage
Nickel, price
on application,
Turnstyle Designs.
Kitchen design,
Clarity Arts.
Photography *Procter*
Images & Motion

bottom left
Handmade Skinny
Shaker cabinetry,
from £10,000,
Olive & Barr.

below In this
pale blue kitchen,
circular, cherry
wood recessed
handles break up
the straight lines of
the cabinetry and
shelving. Bespoke
Ladbroke kitchen,
£12,000, *Naked*
Kitchens.

Tim Higham, founder of Higham Furniture, has seen a rise in the sales of metal handles, too. "Fashionable ironmongery is available in different colours and textures, and includes burnished brass, satin brass, satin nickel, satin chrome, polished chrome, and matt black finishes, to name but a few," he says. "They've become a current trend, whether the kitchen cabinetry is a traditional in-frame model or a more contemporary design."

Whichever style you opt for, you can be sure your choice of handles will have a direct result on both the function and aesthetics of your kitchen; so make that choice wisely. ®



Well-living: you'll want to share



Franke Integrated Kitchen Solutions

Franke Home Solutions combines functionality, technology, and sustainability to make your daily life easier.

WELL-LIVING IS ON SHOW



FRANKE