

BRITISH STANDARD

BY PLAIN ENGLISH

HOW TO INCORPORATE VINTAGE PIECES IN YOUR KITCHEN

Guide No. 7



We love to combine vintage pieces with our fitted joinery as they can be fantastic value for money and have a certain character and patina that can only be achieved with age.

These sorts of pieces add a sense of richness and depth to a room. Don't be afraid of mixing styles and periods; a mid-century or modernist table can work brilliantly in a Georgian style kitchen and a weathered antique piece can add textural contrast to a sleek, minimal interior."

With a focus on craftsmanship we believe in buying once and buying well and often encourage reusing quality, inherited or reclaimed pieces by working them into the overall design. When thoughtfully incorporated, pieces which hold significance to the owner and / or reflect their taste will add a layer of texture and interest, giving personality to the space.

Adrian Bergman, Senior Designer



Worktables & Worktops

Reclaimed worktops can be beautiful and economical as well as being a good way to reduce our carbon footprints. Reclaimed stone is available from salvage merchants, as are timber worktops from laboratories and schools.

Scale is critical consideration when choosing a reclaimed worktable - oversized pieces can ruin the feel and flow of a space whereas undersized pieces can look silly. If you have the space, reclaimed tailors' tables and haberdashery cabinets can make a brilliant centrepiece around which to plan your kitchen. If space is tight, an expandable table could serve as both a dining table and a central preparation surface instead of an island.

Wood: Wood is the traditional material for worktops as it would have been simpler to source locally and install than stone, which requires a lot more effort to process and transport. Wood is also an attractive and characterful material, bringing a sense of warmth to a space - it often has scars and even graffiti from its previous life, adding an extra layer of interest in the right environment. Many reclaimed pieces are old worktops from schools and laboratories and are often made from Iroko or teak which is now very scarce and expensive. These can be sanded back to bare wood or in some instances enjoyed for what they are with their acquired patina and characterful quirks.

Stone: Reclaimed worktops are available at salvage yards and can be an economical solution but can involve additional work and ingenuity to adapt existing shapes to a new layout.

Flooring

With a particularly lovely character created from years of use, reclaimed flooring is a great way to add instant history and human touch to a new environment.

Wood: Reclaimed wooden boards or parquet will add a wonderful texture and timeless feel to your space. Wood will require periodic maintenance and re-sealing in high footfall places such as the kitchen and corridors to prevent excessive wear and tear.

When sourcing, ensure that the wood hasn't been damaged by water or damp and remember to factor in time for the boards to acclimatise on site before being laid by an expert. If you are hoping to install under-floor heating most reclaimed boards will be unsuitable as the heat can cause them to shrink and warp resulting in exposed gaps.

A trend in recent years has been to avoid the 'over-restoration' of vintage items which can destroy their charm. Floorboards are lightly brushed then sealed to retain marks from their previous use.

Stone: Solid and durable, reclaimed stone flooring comes with the most wonderful appearance created from many years of use. Stone also has excellent heat retaining properties so it is a great choice if you are opting for under-floor heating. Note that porous stones will need sealing.





Lighting

The key to good kitchen lighting is finding the perfect balance between general, task and mood lighting - choose vintage pieces for each or mix in some modern lighting such as dimmable spots to give a variety of options and opportunities to create different atmospheres. When sourcing vintage lighting it is essential to have everything checked by an electrician as the piece may need rewiring and could otherwise be dangerous.

To create a welcoming ambiance avoid low voltage bulbs with harsh and unflattering bright white light and instead use filament or LED filament bulbs which have a warm light .

To avoid an over reliance on ugly ceiling spots, a good system is to install a 5amp circuit with a dimmer switch so that as many occasional and standard lamps can be added as needed.

Sinks and Fittings

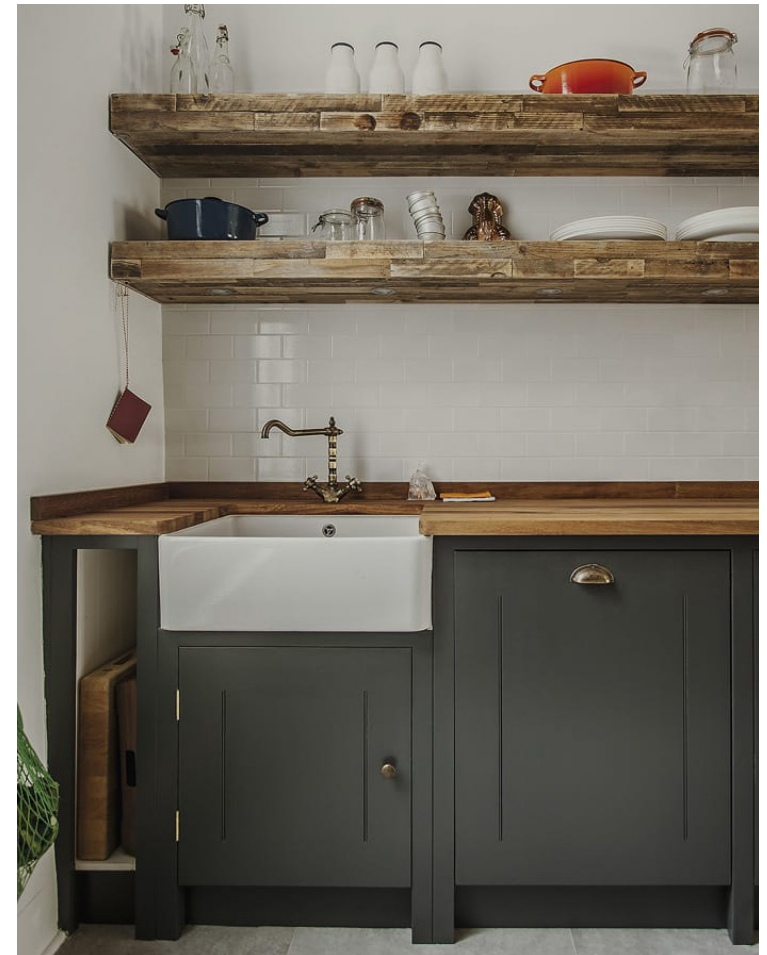
The main consideration when choosing a sink is between metal and ceramic options.

Sinks: For a classic, farmhouse feel a popular choice is a traditional reclaimed ceramic butler sink, it can be mounted beneath a worktop or set forward so that the front is exposed for an even more traditional feel. Make sure to check the various dimensions and their wastes might require conversion to work with modern plumbing fittings. Also ensure to check the condition, if the glaze is worn or cracked the material will become porous and can leak.

Taps: Not all taps are suitable for domestic use so check with your plumber as some commercial taps such as old laboratory taps are made differently and the drinking water can become contaminated by the hot water within the fitting.

Vintage taps will often require servicing as the washers may be worn out, they may have threaded elements that are no longer useable or they may not conform to modern hygiene regulations.

Don't be put off by the technicalities, antique taps and sinks can feature rare and beautiful designs, which are no longer manufactured and impossible to replicate.





Accessories

If you're not sure about incorporating larger vintage pieces, layering in smaller decorative items such as artwork, freestanding lamps, storage jars and pans is a great way to create an instant lived in look, adding personality and resulting in a space that feels homely.



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