

Small Kitchen LRV Color Chart

Paint strategies to visually expand your compact cooking space

Maximize brightness and create the illusion of space with strategic color placement. Use this guide to select the perfect high-reflectance tones and finishes.

● Space-Expanding Specs

36 inches

Counter height to split the room

65 or higher

LRV for upper walls and cabinets

10 to 90

Standard residential paint LRV range

20 to 30%

Gloss level for satin painted cabinetry

1 color

For upper cabinets, walls, and ceiling

Test your swatches

Always test your selected high-LRV swatches on both a window-facing wall and a shadowed wall to see how the light shifts throughout the day.



● **High-Reflectance LRV Chart**

Find your row: **Desired color tone**

Desired color tone	Your pick	Why
Crisp and daylight-like	LRV 80 to 92	Cool whites with blue/green undertones
Soft with depth	LRV 65 to 75	Luminous grays that bounce light
Warm and balanced	LRV around 70	Barely-there greiges for neutral warmth

● **Two-Tone Kitchen Looks**

- ☐ Warm Terracotta Galley: Earthy clay lowers with creamy uppers.
- ☐ Soft Sage Corner: Muted green base with light walls.
- ☐ Charcoal and Linen: Deep charcoal lowers, linen-white walls.
- ☐ Anchor the room by painting lower cabinets dark first.
- ☐ Paint the recessed toe kick to stabilize floating cabinets.
- ☐ Use high-adhesion primer on heavy-wear lower cabinets.
- ☐ Carry the flat upper wall color onto the ceiling.

● **Paint Finish & Prep Guide**

- ☐ Ceilings only: Flat or matte finish at 0-5% gloss.
- ☐ Low-traffic dining walls: Eggshell finish at 10-15% gloss.
- ☐ Doors and baseboards: Semi-gloss finish at 35-50% gloss.
- ☐ Check the back of standard paint chips for LRV.

● **Room Measurements & Notes**

Enjoy your bright, beautifully expanded new kitchen space!