Kitchen Cabinet Colors and Styles for 2026

Ideas for Jersey Shore homes and condos

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Cabinets establish a kitchen’s character and shape how comfortably it functions. For homeowners planning a renovation, the right combination of finish, door design, and storage matters more than any single trend.

Natural Wood Takes the Lead

The 2026 U.S. Houzz Kitchen Trends Study found that 29% of renovating homeowners chose wood cabinets, narrowly ahead of white at 28%. [1]

Natural wood brings warmth, texture, and variation. Light oak can complement pale countertops and coastal neutrals, while walnut creates a richer appearance.

White oak is especially prominent in the National Kitchen & Bath Association’s 2026 report, which identifies it as the leading wood species among surveyed professionals. [2]

White Remains Versatile

Warm white and cream offer a soft coastal palette. Consider white perimeter cabinets paired with a natural oak island or accent cabinet.

Compare actual samples with your flooring, countertop, and backsplash. Review them in daylight and under your kitchen lighting before ordering.



Pictured, top to bottom: white Shaker with a wood island; light oak framed cabinetry; walnut and white flat-panel cabinetry. AI-generated design concepts, not completed Boardwalk Renovations projects.

A Coordinated Plan

Select cabinets as part of the complete room. Countertops, flooring, lighting, and adjoining spaces should work together, while cabinet interiors should support how you cook, store, and entertain.

Find Your Cabinet Style



Classic Shaker

A flat recessed center panel sits inside a straightforward frame. This versatile design works with traditional, transitional, and contemporary interiors. White creates a bright coastal look; natural wood highlights warmth and texture.

Slim Shaker

A narrower frame gives the recessed-panel door a lighter visual profile. Consider this option when you want subtle detail. Light oak and warm white pair well with understated hardware.

Flat-Panel / Slab

Smooth, unframed door faces suit contemporary kitchens. In the NKBA’s 2026 report, 69% of surveyed professionals identified this style as gaining popularity. This measures trend direction, not installed market share. [2]

Inset Cabinetry

Inset doors fit inside the cabinet face frame. It describes construction rather than a decorative profile: a Shaker door can also be inset. Typically a higher-priced option, it deserves a careful comparison of specifications.

Plan for Everyday Use

Prioritize usable drawers, accessible shelving, trash pullouts, and appliance clearances. Condo renovations also require planning for association rules, deliveries, permitted work hours, and plumbing or electrical changes. Boardwalk Renovations helps homeowners approach these decisions as part of a coordinated renovation plan.

Sources: [1] Houzz, 2026 U.S. Kitchen Trends Study. Read study highlights. [2] NKBA, 2026 Kitchen Trends Report. Read report highlights.
All cabinet pictures are AI-generated illustrations.