

IN THE detail

BRASSWARE COLOURS

Every little matters in your perfect kitchen, bedroom or bathroom, so we look at how this design feature can make a big difference

Words: **Yvette Filer**

When it comes to brassware – taps, shower fittings and handles – alternatives to classic chrome have been on the rise. Admittedly, the vast array of choice now available hasn't made the prospect of introducing new colours into your kitchen or bathroom any less daunting. In fact, as the number of ways to personalise your interiors grows, so do the decisions that need to be made. The overwhelming benefit, of course, is that more options mean more possibilities.

Only a few years ago, many of the bold colour designs were imported from abroad to order or were achieved with a DIY hack, but now, most UK brands have a range of finishes on offer, which gives peace of mind for delivery, as well as improved convenience.

As a relatively easy update, taps are the first piece of brassware to consider when introducing a new finish. Metallics such as brass, gold, nickel and copper are popular, but there is a rising trend for bolder, more unusual colours. "The kitchen sink is no longer solely dedicated to washing the dishes – it has a place within the overall aesthetic," says Jennifer Townsend, Rangemaster's product marketing manager for sinks and taps. "Taps

in matt black offer a sleek look that can complement coloured granite sinks that don't suit the stark contrast of a polished chrome tap. On the other hand, warm metallic finishes such as a brushed brass can accentuate darker kitchens or contrast with light cabinetry."

The finish you go for is a personal choice. "A good place to start is to look at the colour story you have created in your space through textiles, art, and accessories, and introduce these shades in your fittings – whether it's metallics or brighter colours," suggests Xander Shreenan, interior designer at Dowsing & Reynolds. "Also take a look in your wardrobe – what colours are you drawn to most? Could you incorporate these into your fixtures? You don't always have to play it safe – this is your space, so have fun creating something that truly reflects your personality."

A word of caution: achieving a high-end look with colourful brassware takes careful consideration. For best results, your finish should fit the rest of your materials. You may want your main tap to stand out or prefer to match all brassware throughout the space – including hardware such as handles and hinges. While bathroom taps and showerheads can often be bought together from the same brand, picking fittings from different suppliers may make matching more difficult. Consider sticking with one brand to ensure a cohesive look and only mix where the colours are decidedly different, for example matt black with gold.

Combining different colours is a good way to define a space, too. "If you have an open-plan room, mismatching your hardware is a great way to help zone areas," adds Xander. "There are so many options, from sleek black modern handles to beautiful brass fittings. I'm also seeing brighter shades and more unusual shapes come into the fore – so why not go for that extra bit of personality?"



The Aquatrend dual-lever tap, £310, from Rangemaster has a tall, sweeping swan-neck in a brushed brass finish. Pair it with a ceramic Belfast sink and white marble-style worktops for a bold design statement.



The Tinkissa design tap comes in a range of colours, including cool Neo Mint and cheerful pink. From £89.99. Dowsing & Reynolds.



Sanitaryware: TESTING COLOUR OPTIONS

Lauren Sutton, head of Design Hub at Virtual Worlds, on how virtual reality allows you to experiment with the fittings in your bathroom

Have you shied away from colourful sanitaryware because it reminds you of dated avocado bathrooms? While more modern white baths and basins work well, they can be limiting if you want to create an individual look. But with the rise of Insta-worthy homes and increased confidence to try out something new, we're now more design savvy and colour confident. One room to benefit: the bathroom.

Colours that complement

Great news: there is a plethora of coloured options available these days, from WCs to basins and baths, and all offer stylish ways to add personality. You don't need a bright yellow WC – think pastel or earthy tones, which you can accent with adventurous finishes through your accessories.

Try before you buy

Looking at images of a design is fine but imagine stepping into your new space and experiencing it in real time. Virtual reality can help you get a feel for everything and avoid that so-called buyer's remorse, getting the look right before you order.



Choose your colours

With Virtual Worlds 4D technology, you can look at your chosen ceramics and sanitaryware in your design and compare different colours at the touch of a button.



Want to give it a go? To find your nearest independent retailer with Virtual Worlds technology, visit find4d.com