

KITCHENS BEDROOMS & BATHROOMS

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SUSTAINABLE KITCHENS



Seeing green

Choosing a sustainable kitchen is the key
to a low carbon footprint in the home

Report: Sarah Blake

Above: Sleek but sustainable, this Amalfi design in ebony is made from 100% recycled timber panels. Priced from £4000 from Chamois Eco Kitchens **Right:** Schmidt has recently received ISO14001 certification for its environmental policy, which includes using sustainable timber, saving energy and minimising emissions. Prices for a kitchen, such as this Aquilon design in apple wood, start from £12,000

SUSTAINABLE KITCHENS



Above left: Mark Wilkinson Furniture has a tree-planting policy to offset the loss of any timber cut down to fulfil a commission. Prices for a Mark Wilkinson kitchen, such as this Shan Gara design, start from around £25,000. **Above right, top:** Cotteswood uses FSC-approved woods for all of its designs and also saves the waste products from its manufacturing process to heat the company factory. Kitchens start from £20,000. **Above right, bottom:** Bamboo is a viable sustainable alternative to hardwood – these bamboo timber work surfaces cost from £160 per m for a 30mm timber thickness, from Second Nature. **Below:** Resilica is an award-winning 85% recycled glass surface that can be created in any combination of colours to suit your kitchen. It is priced around £494 per m for a 30mm-thick worktop, from Eight Inch.

Recycled glass is also becoming an extremely popular eco alternative for work surfaces, and not just because it's environmentally sound. As Gary Nicholson, from Eight Inch, suggests, "Recycled glass gives customers the chance to create their own, bespoke worktops in any colour they choose. We had a client a few months ago who wanted red glass in her kitchen, so she went around all the local charity shops and sent us boxes of red glass bowls and ornaments. We smashed them up and put it into her worktops."

Aim to reclaim

The most sustainable option of all is to choose a completely reclaimed kitchen. This isn't as difficult as it sounds; specialist companies, such as Source Antiques, will supply the whole package for you, fitting restored kitchen cabinets, sourcing energy-saving appliances and finishing off with reclaimed stone or timber worktops – recycled school laboratory benches are apparently popular. There are also plenty of reclamation yards that deal in salvaged kitchens. The added bonus of choosing



an older, second-hand design is that your kitchen will look fabulously retro and be unique.

If your room is awkward or you don't want to squeeze pre-existing cabinets into the available space, you could also look for a company that makes bespoke kitchens from reclaimed timbers. This allows you to create your own design, safe in the knowledge that your ideal kitchen is also ideal for the environment. **KIRI**

SourceBook

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ECOFRIENDLY KITCHENS

Going green

As huge swathes of rainforest disappear throughout the world, landfill sites rapidly approach full capacity, and society demands more and more energy, how can we make a difference in our own homes?

Report: Heather Powell



Mark Wilkinson Furniture is committed to improving its environmental performance. 95% of the timber used in its kitchens is from certified sources such as the FSC, and the company claims to plant two trees for every new customer. The Arts & Crafts kitchen pictured is priced from £25,000.

We are now more environmentally aware than ever, but we still have a long way to go to solving the damage modern life causes to the planet. And as well as the effect on the environment, how about the impact on our health? "If you're going to buy organic food, do you then want it to be your kitchen that's poisoning you?" asks designer Oliver Heath. "Just as people want to know more about where their food is from, so it's the same for their kitchens. A product's eco-credentials are really moving up the design necessity list."

"Now we are all able to see some of the effects of global warming, we are all inclined to consider the source of our goods and the energy costs," says Peter Loftus from kitchen company Mobalpa. The kitchen is one area where being more eco-conscious can make a real difference. There's a multitude of environmental issues to consider such as the source of materials used to make the units, which appliances will be most energy-efficient, and how best to manage the large amounts of waste produced by everyday living.

Right to the source

When buying a new kitchen, the first area of concern is what it's made of, and how it has been sourced. The current vogue for woods such as walnut presents an environmental challenge, and kitchen companies should be looking to source their timber from well-managed forests. "Consumers should look for suppliers that are members of organisations that manage forests such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)," says Peter. And Nick Cliffe from the FSC adds, "When you see the FSC label on a product you know that the wood has been independently tracked through every stage of production all the way back to the forest." ▶

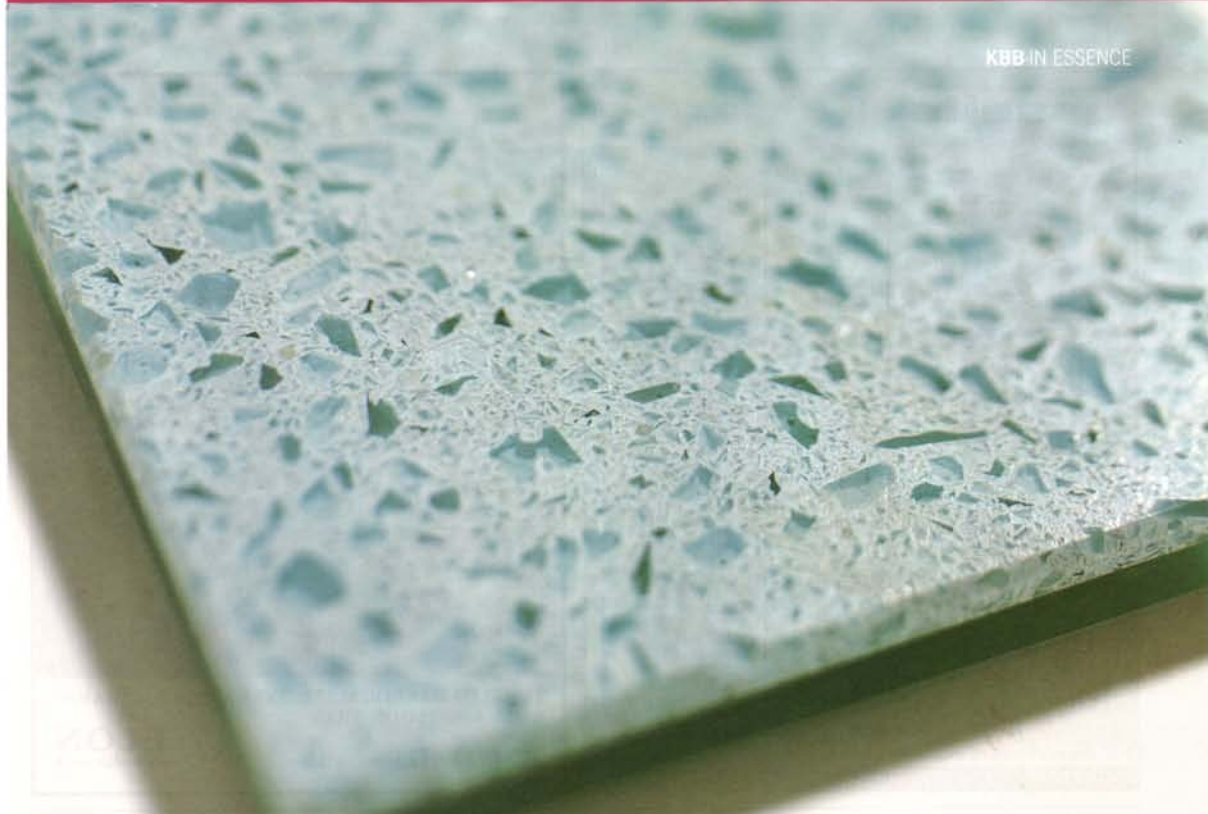
Top: Durat is a solid, polyester-based material containing recycled plastics. It's 100% recyclable, making it an ecofriendly choice for worktops, splashbacks and sinks. Price on application **Right:** Eight Inch specialises in Tura, a material made from recycled bottle bank glass and solvent-free resins. It has a hard-wearing polished surface and comes in over 200 colours making it ideal for worktops. Worktops cost from £400 per linear m



Photograph: Stuart Sims

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KBB IN ESSENCE



Eco logical

Given the growing interest in the use of environmentally friendly materials in the home, a worktop, furniture and flooring material made from recycled glass just makes sense

Report: Jill Macnair

When you consider the prospect of living in an eco-friendly home, you may be blinded by negative perceptions. In fact, the reality of sustainable living doesn't necessarily include ugly, raw-looking buildings. Technological advances are being married to aesthetic considerations, projecting us into a future where more people are living in harmony rather than at odds with the environment. Durable and ultra-stylish 'green' materials such as Ttura, a composite containing 85% recycled glass mixed with solvent-free resins, are meeting market needs.

"The environment is such a critical consideration for everyone, not just designers. I'm glad to see that things are finally being pushed in that direction by the Government," comments designer Gary Nicholson. His commitment to investigating the properties and environmental impact of materials is the driving force behind his interiors and furniture design company, Eight Inch.

The company specialises in a patented composite material called Ttura, which Gary helped develop while at university. Ttura is extremely hard-wearing. Unlike stone or granite, it can be carved into virtually any shape and its resin can be tinted to almost any

colour. Its properties make it ideal for worktops, furniture and even flooring. "It enables you to have a visual link between your floor and furniture," enthuses Gary.

Aesthetically, Ttura shares some of the mottled characteristics of granite, but functionally it is stronger. It can therefore be used in thinner sections – another bonus in terms of resources. The material is also highly resistant to staining, making it extremely easy to maintain. Its aesthetic and practical qualities were affirmed last year, when Eight Inch furniture was awarded first place in the International Design Resource Awards and third place in the International Design Eco Awards.

Interest in Ttura has reached as far as New York, Australia and Russia, and, to meet demand, Eight Inch is currently developing seamless cast basins, baths and shower trays.

Essentially, the interest Eight Inch is receiving can be interpreted as part of the growing public response to environmental issues. "One of the big sticking points we encounter is the outdated notion that recycled products are of a lesser quality," Gary says. "That's where I see Ttura changing attitudes, by showing everyone that not only can it be strikingly beautiful, but it's also hard-wearing, versatile and commercially viable."

Call Eight Inch on 020 7503 3400