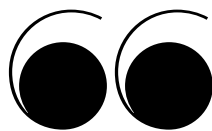


# Amira Hashish Lifestyle Lowdown

*Small can be beautiful: top tips for a first-class kitchen makeover*



Small kitchens can be given a new lease of life with a clever choice of fittings and the right colour scheme.

“Embarking on a kitchen remodelling project can be daunting. There are so many elements to consider – cabinets, appliances, countertops, flooring, the list goes on,” says Brian Burton of DIY specialists 0800 Handyman, whose latest kitchen makeover project (pictured) is a good example of how to revamp effectively.

“A well-equipped and decorated kitchen will help add value to your home, so it’s worth investing time and money. And always be clear on budget,” adds Burton.

Magnet offers a varied selection of kitchen units to suit a range of budgets, grouped into “simply”, “purely” or “uniquely” options. The Planar model from the mid-range “purely” category, seen here in gloss white, will stand the test of time as it offers a neutral backdrop. Expect to pay around £6,000 (not including worktops, appliances, splashback or installation) at [magnet.co.uk](http://magnet.co.uk). The minimal style and soft curves add a design edge to small spaces. The team can provide a 3D CGI of how it will look in a space or arrange a home survey for reassurance.

A splashback helps achieve a contemporary look and Magnet stocks Deco Glaze ([decoglaze.co.uk](http://decoglaze.co.uk)). In this instance, the coffee glass from the classic range left a beautiful finish. The reflective surface creates the illusion of more space. Easy to maintain, it overcomes the issue of discoloured grout that may occur in tiles.

The right worktop is crucial. Technistone quartz is tough, durable and food safe ([technistone.co](http://technistone.co)). It is available in a range of colours. The new Technistone Noble range provides “limestone and marble imitation”: a natural stone look but with Technistone properties. Technistone Noble Calista, pictured here, is based on Turkish marble – producing an elegant creamy colour with white waves against a warm beige background. Made in the Czech Republic, Technistone is now widely available in Britain. B Stone Ltd (01604



585848, [sales@bstoneuk.co.uk](mailto:sales@bstoneuk.co.uk)) is the UK distributor. “You can either choose a worktop colour that compliments a scheme or use the worktop more as a feature,” says a representative. “Darker colours may make a room look smaller. Thicker worktops (three cm) will give your kitchen a more chunky look whereas thinner worktops (two cm) will provide a more sleek and minimalistic edge.”

Fabricators are needed to transform the stone into worktops, so it is important to select a reliable firm such as The Stone Company (01245 243920, [thestoneco.co.uk](http://thestoneco.co.uk)), which ensures that surfaces are templated, crafted and fitted correctly and efficiently. Stone Company experts can also advise on what worktop would suit your space and which time scale would be appropriate. The results are truly transformative and Moduleo Verdon Oak flooring ([moduleo.co.uk](http://moduleo.co.uk)) is a strong match.

Appliances allow technology to be incorporated and Miele, the German manufacturer, is at the forefront of kitchen design. “Cooking is a growing passion within the UK and cooks demand more from their appliances to get the results they are looking for,” says a spokesperson. “Miele caters for this, offering exciting and innovative appliances that provide precision, accuracy as well as flexible cooking functions.”

At the centrepiece of Miele’s collection is the Generation 6000 range, featuring two elegant design lines; PureLine and ContourLine. PureLine is designed to harmonise with architectural styles and modern settings – with an extensive use of glass in the appliance fascia and a handle that appears to float above the glass front.

ContourLine is distinctly different, with a stainless steel framed glass door and



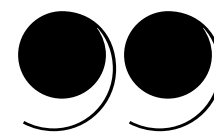
*The grey kitchen before (above) and the glossy new look, fitted by 0800 Handyman. Neutral units from Magnet; worktops based on Turkish marble; and appliances from Miele*  
**SKY MOORE-CLUBE**

integrated handle. Each line comprises a complete range of appliances with a choice of user interfaces that can be mixed and matched to create a co-ordinated look.

It is worth popping into the Miele Experience Centre in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, or the Miele Gallery in London for a fully interactive display as well as expert advisors and home economists.

Or research online ([miele.co.uk](http://miele.co.uk)) where information such as technical specifications, features, dimensions and installation recommendations are listed. Grohe’s Red tap is ahead of the game, running filtered kettle hot water as well as acting as an integrated kitchen tap ([grohe.com](http://grohe.com)).

Once all fixtures and fittings have been decided, it is important to invest in a reputable labourer, who will provide a clear indication of what is entailed. “We come along and give an idea of costings, how long the job will take and make sure you have everything covered,” explains Burton. Never compromise on a qualified electrician. For this project, Kevin Jones ([kjelectrics.moonfruit.com](http://kjelectrics.moonfruit.com)) ensured the highest standards were met.



Go to [standard.co.uk/kitchenmakeover](http://standard.co.uk/kitchenmakeover) to shop for appliances. For more handyman details, visit: [0800handyman.com](http://0800handyman.com)