

KITSCH *kitchen*

Make it work for you...

THINK pink. But this is pink at its most folksy. Combine it with clashing shades of red, blue and yellow for a colourful, retro feel.

PAINT everything. Chairs, plant pots, door handles. Mismatching is the name of the game, but who has time to go sourcing cupboard doors in different shades? Grab a can of PlastiKote spray and paint them yourself. Use masking tape to cover the parts you don't want touched.

EMBRACE the clutter. The great thing about this kitchen is it looks lived in. So forget about shutting things away in cupboards and let your bits and bobs line the surfaces - the brighter the better.

HAVE a rummage in your gran's attic. Old candlesticks, ornaments and fabrics all help to add to the homely, eclectic look. Vintage tablecloths can be cleaned up and brought back into use, while frayed and damaged ones can be cut up to make tea towels or to re-cover chairs.

WHO says you can't tile your ceiling with shimmering silvers and purple tiles? Not us!

GO flower-picking. Or pop to the florist. Fresh flowers are unbeatable for bringing a bright and breezy vibe, but fake ones will do just as well and will add to the kitsch look.

OPEN the shutters/curtains/blinds. A colour scheme this busy can look gloomy without natural light, so make sure whatever window dressing you go for pulls all the way back or up to let in as much of the day as possible. If your kitchen isn't overlooked, forgo them altogether and make the most of that light.

INDULGE your hankering for gilded mirrors and gilt-edged accessories. But stick to a shabby-chic look, rather than all-out bling. Look for words such as 'antique gold', 'burnished' and 'distressed' when buying new - the finish should be metallic, but not shiny. Or try your hand at gold leaf. A second-hand chair like the one here would look amazing and will add to the home-made feel.



LIVING notes

Put the 'kitsch' in kitchen with clashing colours and twinkly tiles for a fun, quirky look...

Traditional Moroccan iron and glass hanging lantern, £70, Moroccan Bazaar



Coloured rings worktop saver, £15, Joseph Joseph



Drawers with ceramic knobs £14.99, Dunelm Mill

Deco violet tiles, £48.86 per sq metre, Topps Tiles



Matrix berry tiles, £30 per sq metre, Topps Tiles



Ivar pine chair, £13, Ikea



Ian Snow gold leaf mirror, £29.51, Amazon.co.uk



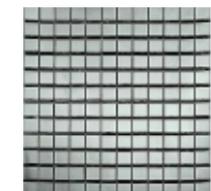
French gold leaf dining chair, £189, The Furniture Market

PlastiKote Satin Cameo Pink and Gloss Mediterranean Blue Colour Twist & Spray paint, £8 for 400ml, Plasti-kote.co.uk



Pip Studio floral rectangular tray, £20, John Lewis

Mirror mosaic small tiles (144), £4.95 per sheet, Wallsandfloors.co.uk



Sandwich knives, £12.95 each, Kuhn Rikon



Antique silver glass candlestick £25, Littlewoods.com

Paisley park wipeable tablecloth, £24.95, Dotcomgiftshop.com

