

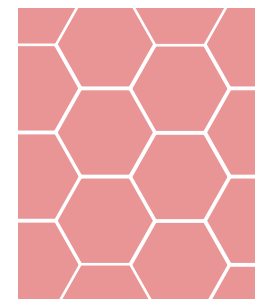


# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO Kitchen Tile

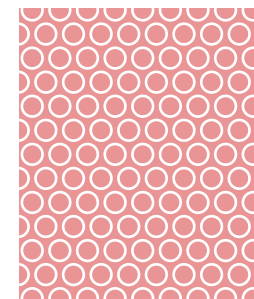
Upgrade your  
space with  
a bold new  
backsplash!

in the kitchen

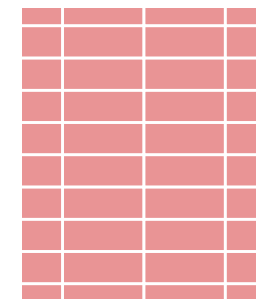
## Pick a Shape



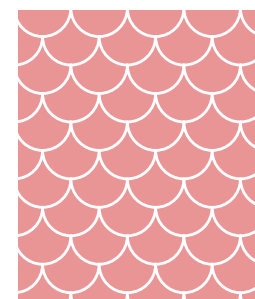
HEXAGON



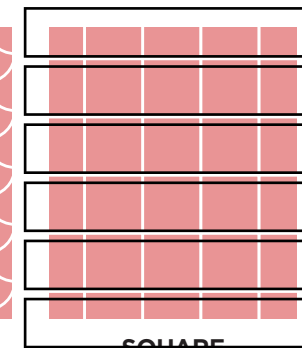
PENNY



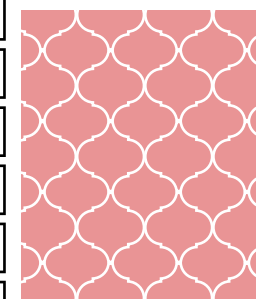
RECTANGLE



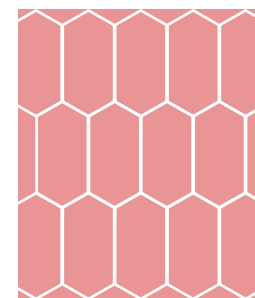
FISHSCALE



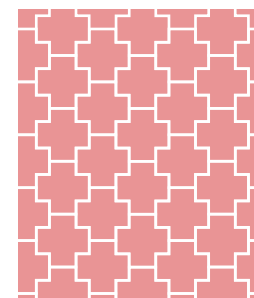
SQUARE



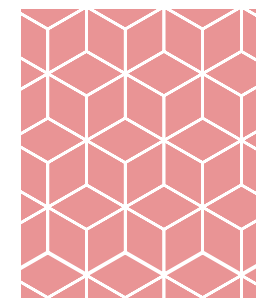
LANTERN



ELONGATED HEX

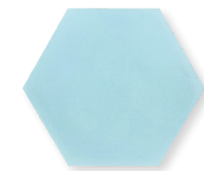


CROSS



DIAMOND

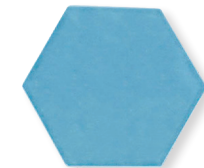
## CHOOSE THE MATERIAL



**Cement**  
These tiles are porous, so they should be sealed before and after grouting. The colors are often deeply saturated.



**Porcelain**  
One of the most affordable options, these tiles are scratch-resistant, easy to clean, and ideal for keeping out moisture.



**Ceramic**  
These tend to be handmade and can be delicate, so expect chips and color variations. But the beauty is in the imperfections.



**Zellige**  
Pronounced zell-idge, these handcrafted clay tiles are glazed and fired, which gives them irregularities.



**Glass**  
They're pricier than porcelain but cheaper than zellige, and they come in endless colors and finishes.

## ABOUT THAT GROUT

### Type

Sanded and unsanded grouts are the industry standard. They're inexpensive and easy to use. For a more durable option, try epoxy. It's stain resistant and holds up to harsh cleansers.

### Color

If you want your tile to be the star, pick a matching grout so the joint lines aren't distracting. If you'd rather highlight the pattern in the tile layout, choose a contrasting grout.

### Joint line

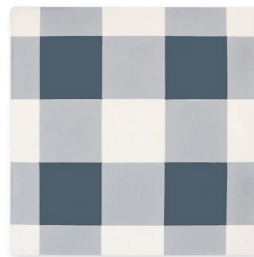
The farther apart your tiles, the thicker the grout lines—and the more rustic the tile will look. Most grout lines should measure 1/16" to 3/16".



# Styles to Try

## classic blue and white

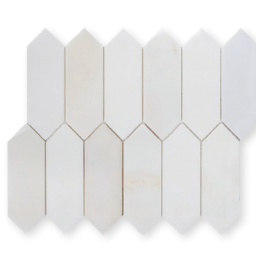
You can't go wrong with this traditional color combo in a kitchen.



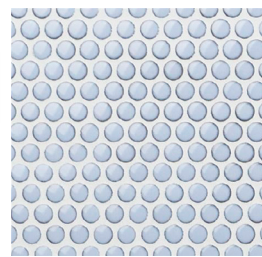
**BLUEBERRY**  
8", \$13 per square foot,  
cementocollection.com



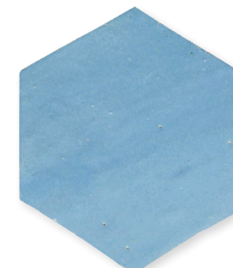
**SUNFLOWER**  
Laura Ashley, 8",  
\$10 per square foot,  
tileshop.com



**SUBURBS**  
Jeffrey Court, 10" x 12½"  
sheets, \$18 per square  
foot, homedepot.com



**EDEN 2.0**  
¾" dia., \$11 per square  
foot, tilebar.com



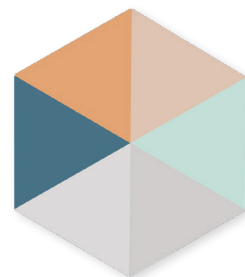
**SUPERIOR**  
4" x 3½",  
\$25 per square foot,  
ziatile.com



**EVENINGSTAR**  
11", \$117 per square foot,  
tilebar.com

## colorful and geometric

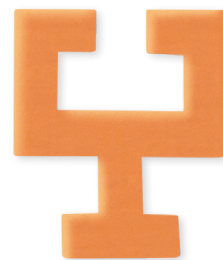
Pair neutral cabinets with these bold patterned tiles to really let them shine.



**CAROUSEL-III**  
8", \$17 per square foot,  
cementocollection.com



**VALENTINA-3**  
8", \$28 per square foot,  
lilitile.com



**CHAI NE FEMME**  
4" x 3½",  
\$52 per square foot,  
fireclaytile.com



**WAVEY**  
8", \$30 per square foot,  
aimeewilder.com



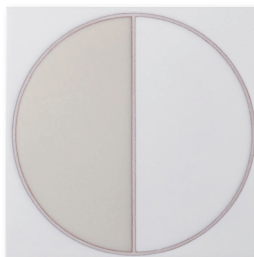
**TRIPTYCH**  
8", \$15 per square foot,  
ziatile.com



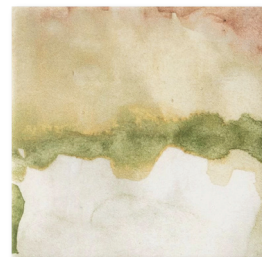
**META**  
Elizabeth Sutton,  
17" x 17½" sheets, \$28 per  
square foot, tilebar.com

## earthy neutrals

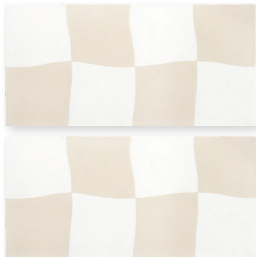
Beiges and natural tones with soft, organic lines will give a space a zen-like feel.



**HARVEST**  
8", \$30 each,  
fireclaytile.com



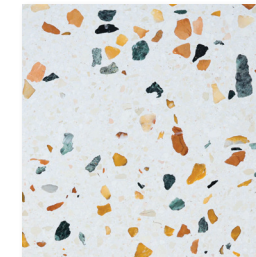
**PAINT BRUSH**  
6", \$19 per square foot,  
countryfloors.com



**REALITY CHECK**  
4" x 8",  
\$15 per square foot,  
ziatile.com



**JAPANDI MAPLE**  
23¾" x 47¾",  
\$12 per square foot,  
tileclub.com



**LEVANZO**  
16", \$20 per square foot,  
cementocollection.com



**NOUVEAU**  
4" x 10",  
\$18 per square foot,  
ziatile.com

## mid-century modern

Vintage-inspired tiles deliver the perfect mix of cool shapes and rich colors.



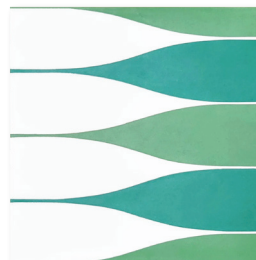
**BYZANTIUM**  
8", \$12 each,  
granadatatile.com



**WAVE**  
2¾" x 12",  
\$42 per square foot,  
fireclaytile.com



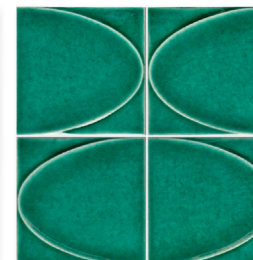
**NABI**  
12½" x 16½" sheets,  
\$29 per square foot,  
tilebar.com



**LUT 7**  
8", \$23 per square foot,  
lilitile.com



**ZIG ZAG**  
8", \$18 per square foot,  
cletile.com



**MIZU**  
Emser Tile, 8" x 16",  
\$21 per square foot,  
build.com

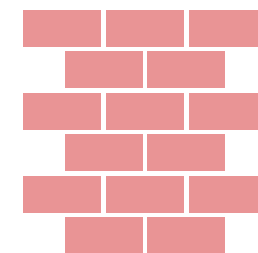


Kitchen design by  
Rebel Builders  
(@rebelbuilders)

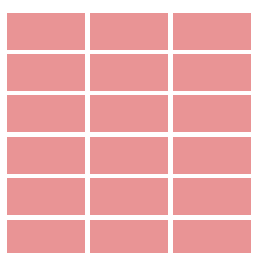
## SUBWAY EVERY WAY

These timeless tiles look great in any arrangement.

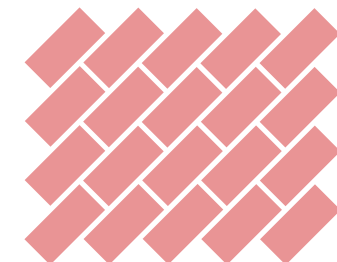
### STAGGERED



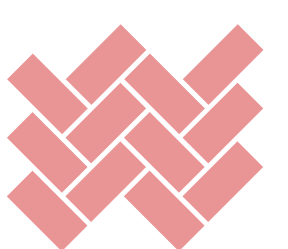
### STACKED



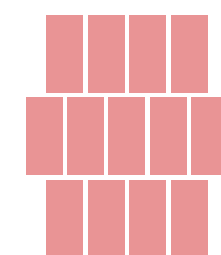
### DIAGONAL STAGGERED



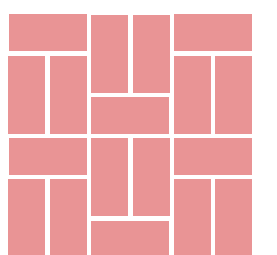
### HERRINGBONE



### VERTICAL STAGGERED



### BASKETWEAVE





# It's a Pattern

Get inspired by these great tile layouts.



**PINK HEXAGONS** Walnut Creek, CA, designer Karen Nepacena (@destinationeichler) was going for a “Palm Springs boutique hotel” look with these peachy 3-inch Fireclay Tile hexagons. “The homeowner wanted to honor the mid-century-modern spirit of the house, so these were an easy choice,” she says.



**TEAL DIAMONDS** To add depth, dimension, and color to this Fenton, MI, kitchen, designer Elin Walters (@exactlydesigns) chose Escher tiles in turquoise from Fireclay Tile. “It’s the perfect backsplash to complement the bright yellow stove,” she says.



**PATTERNED CEMENT SQUARES** Blue-and-white tiles from Sabine Hill give this Nantucket, MA, space a modern, beachy feel—and they’re low-maintenance. “Cement tiles have a beautiful matte finish that makes them resistant to wear and tear,” says designer Audrey Sterk (@audreysterkdsgn). “They’re easy to clean, so they’re perfect for kitchens.”



**MARBLE CHEVRON** This kitchen has 10-foot ceilings, so Huntington Beach, CA, designers Lindsay Stokes Kennedy and Alexandra Cole (@kennedycollection\_interiordesign) wanted a backsplash that would make a statement without looking over the top. These mosaic tiles from Bedrosians Tile & Stone draw the eye up but “aren’t overbearing,” say the designers.



**OMBRÉ OGEES** The toughest part of this San Rafael, CA, installation: deciding how to arrange the tile. Designer Kelly Berg (@storyandspace) tried various layouts on the floor before landing on this one, which features four colors of Fireclay Tile’s ogee tiles. She aligned the top row with the window: “I love how it lets the unique shape stand out,” she says.



**EARTH-TONED TRIANGLES** “People always migrate to the kitchen, so why not make your backsplash a conversation piece?” say designers Morgan and Jamie Molitor (@construction2style). This home sits on a tree-lined lake in Minnetonka, MN, the inspiration for these warm tiles from Mercury Mosaics.

FOR SOURCES, SEE PAGE 90.

SPREAD, CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: CHRISTOPHER DIBBLE; DIANA PAULSON; MELLON STUDIO; VIVIAN JOHNSON; CHELSIE LOPEZ PRODUCTION + MARKETING; JEFF ALLEN