How to choose tiles for kitchen

Valuable advice to help you choose tiles with practicality in mind

One of the main choice criteria when buying tiles is the purpose of the room you're looking to remodel. Kitchen is not only a place where meals are prepared, it is also a hallmark of a hostess. Therefore, tiles should not only be functional, but also add a homey vibe and distinct style to the room.

Characteristics of tiles depend on the type of surface. When choosing tiles for kitchen floors, you should consider resistance to abrasion. Normally, class PEI III is sufficient for most kitchens (as long as you don't use it as a dancing hall). When choosing tiles for walls and backsplashes, this characteristics doesn't matter. However, you might want to make sure not to overpay for super-resistant tiles just to put them on your walls.

Kitchen is one of the rooms with high humidity (especially if you have a small kitchen or if you cook a lot). For this reason water absorption rate (or tile density) should be paid attention to. Moreover, food and beverages often get spilled on a kitchen floor. Low water absorption rate matters here as well, since it enables tiles to resist stains better. Therefore, kitchen tiles should have water absorption rate less than 3% (high density tiles).

Another aspect you should consider is resistance to chemicals. Kitchen surfaces often get dirty, and therefore require frequent cleaning. Even if you tend to use mild chemicals for your kitchen (which is a good decision, since you prepare food in there), it is better to use tiles of class A for your kitchen application.

Visual appearance is also very important. If you want to keep your kitchen looking clean and orderly, you should consider the following tips:

- dirt is less visible on dark tiles with grainy texture;

- matte finishing does not produce flecks and makes scratches less visible;

- fractures and scratches are most visible on black glazed tiles;

- solid-colored tiles reveal dirt, stains, and streaks, while textured tiles make them less visible.

By following these simple recommendations you will not get lost in a dizzying range of tiles and choose the ones that would work for your kitchen in the best possible way.