

7 DIY Tips – How To Choose Your Acrylic Splashback

Doing your own splashback can be tough. Glass is heavy and dangerous, and notoriously easy to break. And tiles are time consuming to install and leave you with dreaded mouldy grout to clean.

Little wonder acrylic is fast becoming extremely popular for DIY-ers. It's 25 times stronger than glass, and only half the weight. This makes it easy to install and very safe. There's no risk of it shattering. And some (although not all as you'll soon discover) acrylic splashbacks will look identical to glass.

Here are 7 tips to choosing an acrylic splashback.

Tip 1. Is it high quality acrylic? There can be a huge variety in the quality of acrylics. Some are produced in clean, state of the art factories and from high quality resins. While others come from lower quality factories and use lower quality resins which produce acrylic with spots and imperfections. When choosing your splashback, trust your eye. Does it look like glass, or plastic?

Tip 2. Make sure it's perfectly clear. The acrylic Innovative Splashbacks uses looks exactly like glass and its *even clearer than glass* with absolutely no green tinge. It's optically clear – as clear as optical glasses. There's a huge difference between optically clear acrylic and lower quality acrylic. One looks exactly like glass while the other looks like plastic.

Tip 3. Compare the TOTAL cost. Most acrylic splashbacks are supplied in single sheets of a set size. And remember, while the cost-per-metre may be less, you are forced to purchase an entire sheet and you pay for what you don't use. This often makes cut-to-size less expensive since you don't pay for anything you don't use.

Also include any cutting fees. Some suppliers charge exorbitant fees to cut acrylic splashbacks, while most won't supply cut-to-size at all. And if you cut it yourself you must factor in your time and labour as well.

Do you have to pick up your splashbacks? Can you fit them into your car? Everyone typically charges for delivery, but we have sourced the best prices for fast, reliable delivery of our splashbacks directly to your door, nationwide. Some large hardware stores charge very high prices for delivery, even across town. We have seen numerous instances where our delivery charges to interstate clients are lower than across town hardware store charges.

Tip 4. Does it come with a play piece? If you choose to cut it yourself ask if it comes with a play piece. This is smaller piece you can use to check your cutting process first. You don't want to get this wrong on your 'live' pieces; it can get very costly when you begin replacing panels.

Tip 5. Does it come with easy to follow instructions? Check you will be given access to an easy to follow installation guide too. Even though it's quite simple to install you don't want to make any mistakes because you weren't given the right information.

Tip 6. Can you get help when you need it? We recognised the need to have help available outside hours for people doing installations in the evening or on weekends. If you're installing your splashback, and you need to ask a question then make sure you can. Ask how easy it is to get help,

and make sure you're not restricted to office hours only, or worse still a call centre without any real product expertise available.

Tip 7. What is the colour method? You may think there's no difference between spray painted acrylic and extruded acrylic with a colour layer 'glued' to the back. However, the difference becomes obvious when you compare them. The 'glued' process lacks the depth and vibrancy of spray painted acrylic and it pales in comparison when you compare it to "looking like glass". And because it's mass produced you can't choose a custom colour. We spray paint our acrylic, exactly like glass splashbacks so it is vibrant, has depth and in fact *looks exactly like a glass splashback*. Plus our splashbacks have the added benefit for people to choose their own colour to perfectly complement their kitchen or bathroom decor.

Extruded colour layer 'glued' to the back acrylics are prone to yellow and colour fade with time and when exposed to UV, and this is reflected in the warranty offered. While we offer a full 10 year warranty, most offer far less and only limit their product to a "UV Warranty", even reducing their warranty by 10% each year.

In summary, there are many acrylic splashbacks on the market. And the range of products and suppliers ranges widely. Make sure you follow these 7 tips and make sure your acrylic splashback really is **The Affordable Luxury**.

To find out more, go to www.innovativesplashbacks.com.au or call 0418 548 743.