



Bespoke copper tops and splashback in a Sebastian Cox kitchen, from £15,000. devolkitchens.co.uk



TAKE A SHINE TO COPPER IN A CRISIS

Antibacterial qualities make it an ideal choice, writes *Katrina Burroughs*



In the post-pandemic era, designers are starting to look at copper less as a decorative metal and more as a material with important hygienic properties, ideal for kitchens and bathrooms, tableware and touch points, such as cupboard pulls, light switches and plug sockets.

Helen Parker, the creative director at Devol, a furniture manufacturer whose kitchen range includes copper worktops, sinks and splashbacks, has launched copper handles. She says we are about to witness a copper craze in kitchen design. “Copper looks rare and precious, and turns out to have amazing antibacterial properties, which now make it even more desirable. What a special product it has turned out to be, so glamorously chic and a little bohemian, with the power to kill pathogens in minutes.” Specialists including [Ledbury Studio](#) (kitchens from £50,000) and [Quirky Interiors](#) (splashbacks, kitchen doors and panels, custom made from £450 a sq m) can supply copper-clad kitchen cabinetry.

The freestanding copper tub is an object of desire that has become shorthand for the aspirational bathroom. Until Covid-19 made us hyperalert about cleanliness, few realised that it also promotes hygiene. Barrie Cutchie, the design director at BC Designs, says: “While most viruses can last for days on steel and glass, they are killed within hours or sometimes minutes on



Copper Boat Bath by BC Designs with nickel interior. Comes in two sizes: 1.5m, £3,780, and 1.7m, £4,536. bcdesigns.co.uk

copper.” Copper boat baths from BC Designs are big-ticket buys, starting at £3,780, basins at £534. Other sources for copper tubs include Drummonds, where the [Tyne copper bath](#) costs £5,820, and William Holland, where the [Copper Petit Bateau](#) costs £4,591.20 and [Gyrus copper hand basin](#) £452.

Copper makes the perfect interiors accent, in cabinet pulls (Bjork set of four costs £15 at [Made.com](#)), door handles and light switches ([Jim Lawrence's](#) cost £45.30). But the metal really shines when used in lighting. [Bert](#)

[Frank's Aegis wall light](#), £702, is a glowing example. Tom Dixon is probably the most famous fan of copper, showcasing its properties in a family of wall lights and pendants, from £315 for a Spot surface light. He says: “Copper is still the most amazing material. It's the first metal that was melted so it's responsible also for progressive humanity, from very early times.”

[@Kat_Burroughs](#)

► *Swipe for more copper design ideas* ■