



# Why Materials Matter

For Sustainable Kitchens





# Who are we?



Mark Byers  
Co-Founder  
Co-Owner



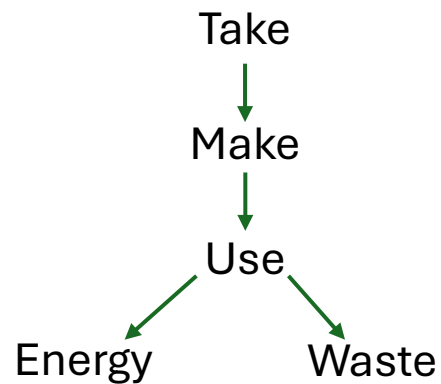
Veronica Rivera  
Co-Founder  
Co-Owner



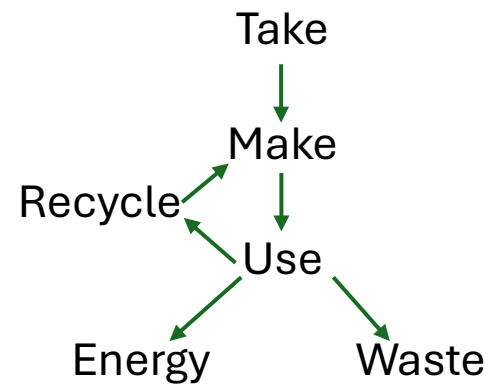
# Reduce – Recycle – Reuse



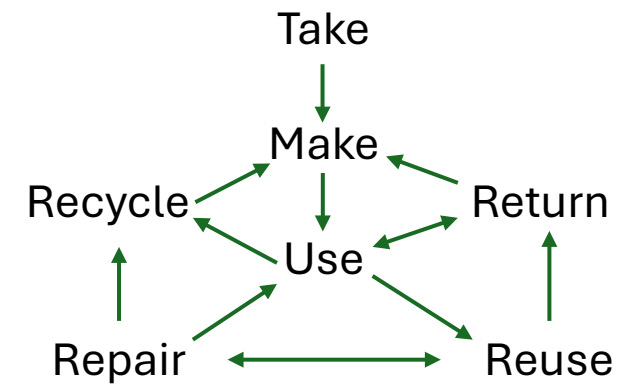
## Linear Economy



## Recycling Economy



## Circular Economy





# The Key Elements of Your Kitchen







# Let's Start With Cabinetry Materials...



Material	Recycled	Recyclability	Reusability	Longevity	Energy
MDF	✓	⚠	⚠	⚠	⚠
MFC	✓	✓	⚠	⚠	⚠
Plywood	⚠	⚠	✓	✓	⚠
OSB	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚠
Virgin Wood	⚠	✓	✓	✓	✓
BioFrame 2.0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reclaimed Wood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Metals	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚠

⚠ Poor   ⚠ Issues   ✓ Low   ✓ Good   ✓ Very Good



# Moving on to Work Surfaces...



Material	Recycled	Recyclability	Reusability	Longevity	Performance
Laminate	⚠️	⚠️	⚠️	⚠️	⚠️
Solid Surface	⚠️	⚠️	⚠️	✅	✅
Quartz	⚠️	⚠️	⚠️	✅	✅
Natural Stone	⚠️	✅	✅	✅	✅
Virgin Wood	⚠️	✅	✅	✅	✅
Reclaimed Wood	✅	✅	✅	✅	✅
Recycled	✅	⚠️	✅	✅	✅
Ceramic	⚠️	✅	✅	✅	✅
Stainless Steel	✅	✅	✅	✅	✅
Sintered Stone	✅	⚠️	⚠️	✅	✅

⚠️ Poor   ⚠️ Issues   ✅ Low   ✅ Good   ✅ Very Good



# Then There Are Appliances...

Sustainability choices are going to be brand influenced. Consider the following criteria:

Criteria	Reasons
Use of recycled materials	Reduces the use of virgin materials and embedded carbon.
End-of-life take-back	Demonstrates responsibility and commitment to sustainability.
Repairability / spare parts availability	Extends product life.
Warranty length	A marker for brand confidence and durability.
Energy efficiency	Impacts total lifecycle carbon footprint.
Sustainability certifications	Provides transparency.
Expected lifespan	A measure of true durability.



# Where Some Brands Fit...



Tier	What It Means	Brand Examples	Why They Belong Here
Best	Market leaders in circular economy design, repairability, longevity, and transparency.	Miele, Bosch / Siemens (BSH Group)	20+ year lifespans, excellent spare part availability, design for disassembly, strong ESG reporting, repair-friendly models, recycled plastics.
Better	Making strong progress on recycled content, take-back schemes, energy efficiency, and right to repair.	AEG / Electrolux, Samsung, Neff (BSH Group)	Recycled materials in use, active take-back partnerships, transparent sustainability goals, improving modularity and spare parts.
Good	Mid-market or budget brands with some energy-efficient models, but less visible or tangible commitment to circularity.	Zanussi, Beko, Whirlpool, Hotpoint, SMEG	Basic energy efficiency present, but shorter lifespans, limited repairability, few long-term parts guarantees, inconsistent sustainability reporting.





# Let's Consider Sinks...



Material	Recycled	Recyclability	Reusability	Longevity	Performance
Stainless Steel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ceramic	⚠	⚠	✓	✓	✓
Composite	⚠	⚠	✓	✓	✓
Natural Stone	⚠	⚠	⚠	✓	✓
Recycled	✓	⚠	✓	✓	✓
Copper/Brass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

⚠ Poor   ⚠ Issues   ✓ Low   ✓ Good   ✓ Very Good



# Use These Criteria For Standard Taps



Criteria	Why It Matters	Best Practice
Material	Affects recyclability and durability.	Solid brass or stainless steel.
Flow rate / aerator	Direct impact on water usage.	<b>1.5–4.5 L/min</b> with aerators or flow limiters. WRAS approved.
Repairability	Determines how long the tap will last.	<b>Taps with replaceable cartridges, valves, spouts</b> last longer
Finish durability	Affects replacement frequency.	<b>PVD coatings or brushed finishes</b> last longer and age better



# Boiling Hot Water Taps - Circularity







Aspect	Sustainability Impact	Best Practice / Advice
Standby energy use	Continuous energy draw to keep water hot.	Look for <b>A-rated systems</b> using vacuum insulation or energy-saving modes.
Water use efficiency	Can reduce water waste vs kettles.	Ideal for <b>small quantities</b> ; can be more efficient overall.
Lifespan	Complex systems = higher embodied carbon.	Prioritise brands with <b>spare parts, long warranties, and local service.</b>
Material recyclability	Similar to appliances – metals/plastics mix.	Check for <b>take-back schemes</b> or repair networks.





# Key Takeaways



-  Not all materials are equal — some are designed for a circular economy, others for landfill.
-  Long life, reusability, and repairability matter more than recycled content alone.
-  Choose brands and products that support disassembly, spare parts, and sustainability reporting.
-  Just because a material can technically be recycled does not mean it will be.

It's about ... **REDUCE – RECYCLE - REUSE**



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