

THE ESSENTIAL

Countertop

Guidebook

A REFINED GUIDE TO SELECTING
THE RIGHT SURFACES FOR YOUR HOME.



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Team



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COUNTERTOP MATERIALS



THE MATERIAL YOU CHOOSE WILL DEFINE
THE LOOK, DURABILITY, MAINTENANCE,
AND BUDGET FOR YOUR PROJECT.



NATURAL STONES



01. GRANITE

PROS:

Granite is a natural stone with unique patterns. It is resistant to heat and scratches and is available in a wide variety of colors.

CONS:

It requires sealing periodically, and large layouts may have visible seams. Granite can be expensive depending of the quality and uniqueness.



02. QUARTZITE

PROS:

A natural stone (not to be confused with engineered quartz), quartzite is harder than granite, making it very hard and durable. It offers a natural stone appearance with veining that resembles marble and is resistant to heat and scratches.

CONS:

As a porous stone, it requires sealing. Compared to quartz, it has limited color options and is more expensive than both granite and quartz.

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NATURAL STONES



03. MARBLE

PROS:

Marble provides a timeless, elegant, and luxurious look that has high resale appeal. Its natural, dramatic veining is unique, and its cool surface is excellent for baking. It comes in a wide range of colors, from classic whites to rich greens and blacks.

CONS:

It is very porous and prone to staining from substances like wine, coffee, and oil. It is softer than granite and can scratch or chip more easily. Acidic foods will cause etching. Marble requires high maintenance and frequent sealing.



04. SOAPSTONE

PROS:

Soapstone has a soft, smooth, matte feel and is resistant to both heat and stains. It develops a natural patina over time and is low maintenance, requiring no sealing.

CONS:

It is a softer material that can be scratched or dented. Its color range is limited to greys, blacks, and greens and it is expensive compared to options like granite.

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NATURAL STONES



05.LIMESTONE

PROS:

This natural stone offers a soft, warm, and earthy look with subtle patterns and fossil markings. It has a timeless, Old-World appeal and is naturally cool to the touch.

CONS:

Limestone is very porous, staining easily and requiring frequent sealing. It is a soft stone, prone to scratches, chips, and etching from acidic foods. Due to its high-maintenance nature, it is better suited for low-use areas like bathrooms rather than busy kitchens.



06.ONYX

PROS:

An exotic and luxurious stone, onyx has a unique translucent quality that allows it to be backlit. It provides a rare look and serves as a statement piece in high-end spaces.

CONS:

Onyx is extremely soft and brittle, meaning it chips, scratches, and stains easily. It is very expensive and requires special care and sealing.



07.TRAVERTINE

PROS:

This natural stone has a warm, earthy appearance with unique veining and texture. It can be finished in a honed, polished, or tumbled style.

CONS:

Travertine is very porous and needs frequent sealing. It is susceptible to etching from acidic substances and is less durable for heavy kitchen use.

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ENGINEERED MATERIALS



01. QUARTZ (ENGINEERED STONE)

PROS:

Quartz is non-porous and never requires sealing. It is resistant to stains, scratches, and bacteria. It comes in a wide variety of consistent colors and patterns and is low maintenance. Quartz has a wide range of pricing options. The brand Caesarstone offers the same benefits with the backing of a warranty.

CONS:

It is less heat resistant than natural stone and can be scorched or burned by hot objects. It is heavier than most options and can be costly.



02. CORIAN (SOLID SURFACE)

PROS:

Corian can be installed with a seamless appearance. It is non-porous, low maintenance, and repairable, as scratches can be buffed out. It is available in a variety of colors and patterns.

CONS:

It can scratch and scorch. Compared to natural stone, it can look less luxurious and is less durable over decades than quartz or granite.



03. PORCELAIN SLABS

PROS:

Porcelain is highly resistant to heat, stains, and scratches. It is also UV resistant, making it a great choice for outdoor kitchens. The slabs are thin and lightweight compared to stone and can convincingly mimic the look of marble or stone.

CONS:

The edges can chip, and it is difficult to fabricate, requiring specialized installers. Porcelain is a mid to high range price option.



04. RECYCLED GLASS

PROS:

This is an eco-friendly option made from repurposed glass. It offers a modern, colorful appearance, is non-porous, stain-resistant, and easy to clean.

CONS:

Heavy items can cause it to chip or crack. It can be more expensive than mid-range granite or quartz and its aesthetic may not suit traditional styles.

OTHER MATERIALS



01. CONCRETE

PROS:

Concrete is highly customizable in color, shape, and finish. It offers a modern, industrial aesthetic and can be cast seamlessly with fewer joints. It is also very durable.

CONS:

It is prone to cracking if not properly reinforced. Because it is porous, it requires frequent sealing and can be stained or show water marks. Its heavy weight requires strong cabinet support.



02. BUTCHER BLOCK (WOOD)

PROS:

Wood provides a warm, natural, and inviting look. It is easy to sand and refinish if it gets damaged. It is a relatively affordable option.

CONS:

It requires regular oiling or sealing. It can stain, scorch, harbor bacteria, and is not very water-resistant, putting it at risk of warping.

MORE COUNTERTOP MATERIALS



03. LAMINATE

PROS:

Laminate is the most affordable countertop option. It comes in a huge range of colors and patterns, is lightweight, and easy to install. Modern versions can mimic stone well.

CONS:

It is prone to scratches, burns, and chips, which are not repairable. Seams can be obvious, and it does not add to a home's resale value.



04. METAL (STAINLESS STEEL, ZINC, COPPER)

PROS:

Metal offers an industrial, professional kitchen appeal. It is resistant to heat and stains (especially stainless steel). Copper and zinc have antimicrobial properties.

CONS:

It scratches and dents easily. It can look "cold" in a residential space and is an expensive material.



03. TILE

PROS:

Tile is a budget-friendly option with a wide range of styles. It is heat resistant, and individual tiles are easy to replace if damaged.

CONS:

The grout lines can stain and harbor bacteria. The resulting surface is uneven, which is not ideal for baking, and the tiles can chip or crack.



04. TERRAZZO

PROS:

Terrazzo provides a trendy, artistic, and customizable look. It is durable, long-lasting, and can be cast for a seamless surface.

CONS:

It is expensive to fabricate and install. Cement-based versions can crack if not reinforced and require sealing. Its heavy weight may require reinforced cabinetry.

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Countertop Finishes

The right finish influences how your countertop looks, feels, reflects light, and performs in everyday living.

A GUIDE TO POLISHED, HONED, LEATHERED, AND MATTE FINISHES.



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01. POLISHED FINISH (HIGH GLOSS)



DESCRIPTION

Shiny, reflective surface; most common finish for granite, marble, quartz, and porcelain.

PROS

- Enhances color and veining — looks luxurious
- Stain resistant (less porous due to polishing)
- Easy to wipe clean
- Common, so easier resale appeal

CONS

- Shows fingerprints, smudges, and water spots easily
- Can feel slippery (especially on edges or integrated drainboards)
- Scratches are more visible

02. HONED (MATTE/SATIN)



DESCRIPTION

Smooth, soft, low-sheen finish; often used on marble, quartzite, and limestone.

PROS

- Contemporary, understated, velvety look
- Hides fingerprints and smudges better than polished
- Softens strong veining for a more subtle style

CONS

- More porous — requires sealing and higher maintenance
- Stains and etches show more easily (especially on marble)
- Less reflective, can feel “flat” in low-light kitchens

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03. LEATHERED (TEXTURED MATTE)



DESCRIPTION

Slightly textured, soft sheen (between honed and polished); often on granite and quartzite.

PROS

- Hides water spots, fingerprints, and smudges very well
- Unique texture adds depth and tactile appeal
- Enhances natural stone movement without high shine
- Low-maintenance compared to honed

CONS

- Limited availability (special order for many stones)
- Texture can make cleaning trickier (crumbs, oils in crevices)
- Doesn't suit all design styles

04. FLAMED



DESCRIPTION

Exposed to high heat for a rough, textured surface; mostly for granite or hard stones.

PROS

- Very slip-resistant (good for outdoor kitchens, flooring)
- Rustic, natural look
- Durable for heavy use areas

CONS

- Rough texture = hard to clean, not ideal for food prep
- Can dull natural colors and veining
- Limited to certain stones (granite, quartzite)

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FINAL THOUGHTS

Your countertop is one of the most used and most noticed features in your kitchen. The right material and finish can elevate the beauty and functionality of your space while adding long-term value to your home.

**A WELL-CHOSEN COUNTERTOP IS
MORE THAN A SURFACE —
IT'S AN INVESTMENT.**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **Match Your Lifestyle:** Consider how your kitchen is used daily and choose a material that fits your cleaning habits, durability needs, and style.
- ✓ **Think Long-Term:** High-quality materials may have a higher upfront cost but often provide better durability, longevity, and resale value.
- ✓ **Factor in Maintenance:** Each material has unique care requirements. Be honest about the time and effort you're willing to invest.
- ✓ **Consider Your Design Goals:** From modern and sleek to warm and rustic, your countertop should complement your cabinetry, flooring, and overall home aesthetic.
- ✓ **Don't Forget the Details:** Edge profiles, finishes, and seam placement can impact both the look and performance of your countertop.



YOUR KITCHEN, YOUR STYLE, YOUR CHOICE.

Take your time, do your research, and choose a countertop that you'll love for years to come.

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Your Life.
Your Style.
Perfectly Matched.

SCAN TO CONNECT



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