

# GUIDE TO COUNTERTOP SURFACES

Before you choose a countertop, it's important to understand the differences in durability, maintenance, installation, and cost for the most common countertop surfaces. A comparison chart is a helpful tool in decision making so we've created one to help you choose what countertop surface is best for you.

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	QUARTZ	SOLID SURFACE	GRANITE	MARBLE	QUARTZITE
<b>STONE TYPE</b>	Manmade stone of quartz powder with color and resin	Manmade stone of hard plastic	Natural real stone	Natural real stone	Natural real stone
<b>MOHS HARDNESS SCALE</b>	6.5-7	4-5	6-7	3-5	7-8
<b>SCRATCHES</b>	Resistant. Difficult to scratch with normal use but not scratch proof.	Fairly easy to scratch, Minor scratches can be buffed out.	Scratch resistant, can chip on corners.	More vulnerable, can scratch (etch) and chip easily.	Highly Resistant.
<b>SCORCHING</b>	Not very resistant.	Can not withstand very high temperatures. Could be burned with a hot pot.	Very heat resistant. While not recommended, it can typically handle a hot pot without a trivet.	Somewhat heat resistant. Often used around fireplaces. Not as much as Granite or Quartzite.	Extremely Durable. Heat Resistant.
<b>STAINS</b>	Repels spills well. Resistant to coffee, wine and many other everyday products.	Can stain. Lighter colors more noticeable.	When sealed properly, very difficult to stain.	Can stain with foods like tomatoes, citrus fruits. Develops a rough texture and an appearance of dullness.	When sealed properly, very difficult to stain.
<b>EASE TO CLEAN</b>	Very easy. Clean with soap and water or nonabrasive glass or surface cleaner.	Very easy. Clean with soap and water or nonabrasive glass or surface cleaner.	Relatively easy. Clean spills immediately with soap and water. No chemical cleaners.	Relatively easy. Clean spills immediately with soap and water. No chemical cleaners.	Relatively easy. Clean spills immediately with soap and water. No chemical cleaners.
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>	No sealing required. Minimal maintenance.	No sealing required. No maintenance.	Moderate to High. Sealing and resealing required every 1-2 years by professional to prevent staining.	High. Sealing then periodic resealing every few months to prevent staining (or etching).	Moderate. Sealing is recommended first time by installer and 1x year by homeowner after to prevent stains.
<b>COLORS</b>	Many options but there are limitations.	Endless options.	Thousands of colors including flaws.	Fewer than granite but all hues are available.	Endless options.
<b>TEXTURE</b>	Polished, matte.	Matte/satin, semigloss, high-gloss.	Polished, Leathered, Honed, Caressed, Bush-hammered, Sandblasted, Brushed, Flamed.	Polished, Leathered, Honed, Caressed, Bush-hammered, Sandblasted, Brushed, Flamed.	Polished, Leathered, Honed, Caressed, Bush-hammered, Sandblasted, Brushed, Flamed.
<b>COST</b>	\$65 and up	\$40-\$150, depending on rarity	\$55-\$200 or more	\$55-\$200 or more	Expensive. \$100 and up.
<b>PRO</b>	Consistent pattern/color. Holds up better than marble or solid surface but not as well as granite or quartzite.	Easy to fabricate. Allows for integrated sink use.	Great color variation and deep luster. Capable of hiding crumbs and smears. Each slab is truly unique and different. Heat resistant for durability.	Its beauty. Ultra-luxurious surface makes for an elegant high-end look. Each slab is truly unique and different.	Doesn't get much tougher than quartzite. Resistant to fading for outdoor areas or direct sun areas. Like the look of marble but more scratch-resistant.
<b>CON</b>	Limitations in colors. Heat resistant only to 375 degrees.	Scratches easily. Not heat resistant.	Heavy stone. Can be expensive. Some designers speak of granite fatigue.	Cannot cut directly on surface. Resealing required by a professional. Not recommended for heavy use or in areas where kids might not take required precautions to prevent staining and chipping.	Tends to be expensive
<b>COMMON CUSTOMER FEEDBACK FOR SELECTION</b>	Uniformity, Low maintenance.	Low maintenance, invisible seams and integrated sinks.	Durability, uniqueness.	Elegance. Veining.	Marble look in a natural stone that is really durable.

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