

COUNTERTOPS 101

COUNTERTOP COMPARISON

NATURAL STONE VS. QUARTZ VS. SOLID SURFACE

Which Material is Best?

- There is no perfect surface
- Choose which is best for you
- Consider the following:
 - Budget
 - Color and Pattern
 - Tactile sensation
 - Material strengths & Weaknesses



NATURAL STONE

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Natural Stone

- Appearance Not Uniform - Movement throughout stone
- Stone may have visible natural fissures and pitting depending on design
- Actual color will vary from sample
- Seams are visible
- Must be sealed - recommend once per year
- Durable but not indestructible
- Do not cut or put hot pots on granite
- Natural Stone is porous and can stain



NATURAL QUARTZ

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Quartz

- Generally composition consists of 93% quartz, binders (polyester) and pigments
- Appearance ranges from uniform to varied
- Actual color is generally very close to that of sample
- Seams are visible
- Nonporous - never needs sealing
- Durable but not indestructible
- Resistant to scratches and cuts
- Do not put hot pans on quartz
- Brands include - Cambria, Caesarstone, Viatera, MSI, Zodiaq



SOLID SURFACE

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Solid Surface

- Made from Acrylic, Polyester or a Polyester blend
- Appearance is Uniform - consistent pattern
- Actual color is very close to that of sample
- Seams are inconspicuous - monolithic look
- Nonporous - never needs sealing
- Durable but not indestructible
- Can scratch, but is easily refinished
- Do not cut or put hot pans on solid surface
- Brands include - Corian, Hi-Macs, Avonite, Livingstone, Staron

Material Overview

	Natural Stone	Quartz	Solid Surface
Uniform Pattern	N	Y/N	Y
Requires Sealing	Y	N	N
Scratch Resistant	Y	Y	N
Mold/Mildew Resistant	N	Y	Y
Heat Resistant	Y	Y	Y/N
Chemical Resistant	N	Y	N
Visible Seams	Y	Y	N
Can be stained	Y	N	N
Easily Repairable	N	N	Y
Manufacturer Warranty	N	Y	Y