

COUNTERTOP OPTIONS - PROS & CONS

Solid Surface

(Corian, Wilsonart Gibraltar, Avonite, Formica Solid Surface, Hi-Macs, Meganite)

- Pros: Acrylic based material, numerous colors, repairable, easy to clean, non-porous, durable, seamless, most offer 10-year warranty, and approved for direct food contact, unlimited design options
- Cons: Can scratch, usually available in a matte/satin finish only, sensitive to direct heat over 300 degrees

Quartz

(Cambria, CaesarStone, Eco, Geos, Silestone, Zodiaq)

- Pros: Made of 93% quartz crystals which results in an extremely durable product, non-porous, no chemical sealers required, approved for direct food contact, offers product warranties from 5 year to Lifetime
- Cons: Edges can be sensitive to chipping and seams will be noticeable

Soapstone

(Green Mountain Soapstone)

- Pros: Durable, non-porous natural material, heat resistant, chemically neutral, great for those who love to cook
- Cons: Available in 1 color, will patina over time, can show scratches, seams will be visible

Paper Based

(Paperstone, Richlite)

- Pros: Made from 100% recycled paper, one of the 'greenest' countertop products available, can help earn LEED points, durable, stain resistant, can be used outdoors, cleans with soap and water, comes with 15-year warranty
- Cons: Visible seams, limited colors, pricier counter top option

Wood

(Michigan Maple / Craft-Art Wood Tops)

- Pros: Available in many species, offers a warm homey look, easy to clean, can be sanded and resealed
- Cons: Can scratch, show abrasion, will need to be re-oiled over time

Glass

(Curvet Glass)

- Pros: Contemporary material available in many colors and textures, great as an upper snack bar, vanities or accent piece
- Cons: Can scratch and chip

Stainless Steel

- Pros: Extremely strong, heat resistant, easy to clean, approved for direct food contact
- Cons: Will scratch, can dull knives if cut on

Granite

- Pros: Natural material with a unique look, sanitary-does not harbor bacteria, easy to clean, durable, adds value to home and does not depreciate over time.
- Cons: Heavy, must be sealed to prevent stains, can crack if struck with hard object, difficult to remove once installed, some types of granite emit radiation.