


R & J Custom Furnishings

Countertop Surface Material Quick Comparison

Material	Pros	Cons
<p>Solid Surface</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Smooth, durable, consistent coloring throughout * No visible seams * Heat and water resistant * Bacteria and mold resistant * Easily maintained & repaired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Premium colors & brands can be expensive * High-gloss finishes show more scratches; semi-gloss or matte finishes recommended
<p>Hard Stone</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Smooth, durable * Heat and water resistant * Rich visual color & texture * Great for baking preparations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Typically very expensive * Odd/large sized will have visible seams * Scratches are hard to remove * Must be polished regularly and sealed annually
<p>Natural Quartz</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Smooth, durable * Requires little or no care and maintenance * Resists heat, scratching, stains, and bacteria * Deep, consistent colors * Less visible seams than granite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * More expensive than some other choices * Odd/large sizes will have visible seams * Can be troublesome to do major repairs
<p>Soap Stone</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Dense, durable, non-porous * Resistant to water, stains, heat, and wear * Each piece is unique 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Requires periodic oiling * Can be easily scratched * Inconsistent color patterns
<p>Plastic Laminate</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Relatively durable * Relatively Inexpensive * Easy to install yourself * Many colors and patterns to choose from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Won't tolerate direct heat * Thin surface color fades * Noticeable seams and edges * Dark glossy colors show dirt and scratches * Will mold & mildew if not sealed properly or if counters shift over time

Ceramic Tile



Moro Wash

- * Durable
- * Heat resistant
- * Challenging, but can be installed yourself
- * Many colors and patterns to choose from
- * Tends to leave an uneven countertop surface
- * Grout lines may be hard to clean; will disintegrate over time
- * Can crack or chip easily

Stainless Steel



- * Durable and easy to clean
- * Resists heat and stains
- * Shiny appearance when new
- * Scratches easily, hard to repair
- * Shows spots, swirls & prints
- * May dent & ding
- * Some find it too noisy

Butcher Block



- * Provides the look, feel, and warmth of natural wood
- * Knives and hot pans can damage the surface
- * Needs careful cleaning and frequent oiling
- * Vulnerable to dents, scratches, and water damage
- * May mildew and rot over time

A Note About Installing New Countertops Over Old Cabinets

If you are considering replacing laminate countertops with solid surface, granite, or natural stone, it is vital to inspect the stability of the existing cabinets. Older cabinets may not be sound and stable enough to handle the dramatically increased weight on your new countertops. In addition, simply electing to install new cabinets with the countertops is not always enough. An inspection of the kitchen or bathroom sub-floor and anchoring wall is also highly recommended. A quick, but thorough, inspection of these areas can prevent potentially dangerous collapses that can be very costly to repair later on.