



SELECTING THE RIGHT MATERIAL FOR YOUR COUNTERTOP

Granite vs Marble vs Quartz

There are three stones that are the most popular when it comes to use in the home: granite, marble and quartz. For every person that loves granite, there's somebody else who prefers marble or likes quartz. Granite and marble are the most popular "natural" stones (made by nature), while quartz countertops are the most popular of the "engineered" counters (man-made).

Each comes with distinct advantages, but there are disadvantages to each choice.

Granite

Granite was created very deep below the Earth's surface when magma cooled. It is an intrusive rock that rose through the crust and formed plutons (large bulbous chambers of molten material), and these plutons can take millions of years to morph into granite.

Pros:

- * Every stone is one of a kind
- * No problems with bacteria
- * Increases the value of your home
- * Easy to clean
- * Among the most durable stones
- * Available in a wide range of colors

Cons:

- * Can become stained permanently
 - * Once glued, can be difficult to remove
 - * Heaviness often requires additional structural support
 - * Can crack when hit with a hard, sharp object
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Marble

Marble is the result of rocks like limestone and dolomite metamorphosing. Pure white marble comes from very pure limestone or dolomite protolith, while the green coloration in other marble comes from serpentine, the result of high magnesium limestone or dolostone.

Pros:

- * Adds light and brightness to any room
- * Classic, timeless beauty
- * Widely available
- * Heat resistant for the most part

Cons:

- * Stains easily due to porousness, so requires regular sealing
 - * Can easily scratch
 - * Unable to replace just one section, instead have to replace entire countertop
 - * Acidic foods and liquids can eat away at the material
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Quartz

Of the three types of countertops listed, quartz are the only ones made by man. However, this distinction should not be confused with synthetic, as quartz is a natural mineral. The counters are held together and colored, and the mixture is pressed into countertop slabs which are hardened.

Pros:

- * Resistant to stains and acids
- * Easy to care for
- * Low maintenance
- * Don't require regular sealing
- * Doesn't harbor bacteria
- * Uniform look

Cons:

- * Not as shiny or reflective as other stones
 - * Not heat tolerant
 - * Seams are sometimes more noticeable with quartz material; they can't be sanded or polished flat to ease the transition
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If you've weighed the pros with the cons and still prefer one stone - whether it's granite, marble, quartz, limestone, onyx or one not listed here - over the others, then choose that one! Experts will tell you while it's important to weigh factors like price, stain resistance, maintenance and so forth, you'll have to at the end of the day live with the choice you made. And considering the durability and strength of some of these stones, that choice could last for a very long time. Pick the countertops you think will fit best in your home, and enjoy them!