

# Countertop Information

## COUNTERTOPS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

● EXCELLENT   ● VERY GOOD   ● FAIR   ● POOR

MATERIAL	PRICE PER SQ.FT.	OVERALL SCORE	TEST RESULTS
			STAINS HEAT ABRASION IMPACT
QUARTZ (ENGINEERED STONE)	\$\$\$	79	● ● ● ●
GRANITE	\$\$\$\$	78	● ● ● ●
LAMINATE	\$	68	● ● ● ●
SOLID SURFACING	\$\$	62	● ● ● ●
TILE (CERAMIC AND PORCELAIN)	\$	58	● ● ● ●
CULTURED MARBLE	\$\$	53	● ● ● ●
CULTURED GRANITE	\$\$	53	● ● ● ●
STAINLESS STEEL	\$\$\$\$\$	52	● ● ● ●
WOOD	\$\$\$\$	26	● ● ● ●
MARBLE	\$\$\$\$\$	18	● ● ● ●

CONSUMER REPORTS ANALYZED VARIOUS ATTRIBUTES OF COMMON COUNTERTOP MATERIALS, INCLUDING HOW IT HANDLES STAINING, HEAT, ABRASIONS AND IMPACT. QUARTZ (ENGINEERED STONE) GOT THE HIGHEST MARKS, WITH MARBLE COMING IN LAST, PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT DOESN'T HOLD UP WELL AGAINST ABRASIONS AND IMPACT. WHILE BOTH QUARTZ AND GRANITE GARNER HIGH SCORES, STAINLESS STEEL HAS BECOME QUITE POPULAR IN CONTEMPORARY KITCHENS, BUT IT IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO SCRATCHING.

### Countertop Comparison Chart

Key	5	4	3	2	1
Outstanding	Above Avg.	Average	Below Avg.	Poor	

	Ceramic Tile	Concrete	Granite (sealed)	Laminate	Marble	Paper composite	Solid Surface	Stainless Steel	Terrazzo	Quartz	Wood
<b>Appearance</b>											
Colors	5	5	5	5	4	2	5	2	4	4	3
Unique Patterns	5	5	5	2	5	2	2	1	5	2	5
Consistant Pattern	3	2	2	5	2	5	5	5	3	4	2
Seam Quality	N/A	5	3	2	2	3	5	5	3	4	3
One Piece Appearance	2	5	2	2	2	3	5	5	2	3	3
<b>Durability</b>											
Scratch Resistance	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	2	5	5	2
Stain Resistance	1	5	4	3	1	3	5	5	5	4	1
Chip Resistance	1	3	3	5	3	5	4	5	2	4	5
Heat Resistance	5	5	5	3	4	3	3	5	5	4	1
Household Cleaner Resistance	5	5	2	3	3	inquire	3	5	2	3	1
Easy To Maintain	2	3	4	4	2	4	4	4	3	5	2
Repair-ability	4	2	1	1	1	1	5	5	1	3	3
Non-Porous (will not absorb moisture)	1	5	5	3	1	5	5	5	4	5	1
Renewable Surface	2	2	2	1	2	5	5	3	2	3	5
Requires Periodic Sealing	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes