



AN INTRODUCTION TO

Countertop Surfaces



Signature
COUNTERTOPS
at **TWD**





Bubinga



American Cherry



*Lyptus
Checkerboard*



Wood

Wood countertops offer a beautiful, warm and inviting look and are available in a wide range of colors and finishes. If you're looking for a sustainable countertop, reclaimed wood is a great option because it complies with LEED standards and is the most eco-friendly of countertops. Wood is one of the more sanitary products for the kitchen, with inherent properties to protect it from bacteria build-up. Maintenance is required, including regular mineral oil treatments, particularly near the sink. Wood oxidizes over time, so some wood countertops may change their color a bit. Wood countertops are considered easy to repair. When they need refreshing, most only require a bit of sanding with a 220 fine-grit sandpaper and re-oiling.

Pros: easy to clean; smooth; can be sanded and resealed as needed.

Cons: can be damaged by water and stains over time; scratches must be oiled or sealed according to manufacturer's instructions.





Magma Gold



Rainforest Green



Uba Tuba

Granite

Granite defines elegance in a kitchen. The beauty of the stone contributes to the beauty of even the most modest kitchen. Despite the technological innovations in alternative materials, natural granite retains its stature as the leading choice in premium, custom countertops. A crystalline, igneous rock quarried from mountains around the world, granite has been a premium building material since the beginning of time. Its naturally varied appearance and character (vein patterns, color variations, etc.) creates a one-of-a-kind uniqueness and sheer beauty that no man-made material can match.

TWD is a member of the Artisan Group. The Artisan group's quality is unsurpassed in the stone industry. The Artisan Group guarantees the highest quality stone, flawless craftsmanship, and a superior sealer to bring you stunning granite countertops that will last a lifetime.

Pros: Holds up to heat; comes in a range of almost 3000 colors; looks permanent and substantial; second highest hardness rating after diamonds; has a high value to home buyers.

Cons: Expensive, but becoming more affordable; requires some maintenance; knives can become dull if you cut on it; can crack if stressed or improperly installed





Crema Marfil
(Also shown on cover)



Top: Buttermilk
Bottom: Chocolate Truffle

Tom Owens with ProBuild Construction



Red Eros

Quartz

Natural quartz, also known as engineered stone, is the fastest-growing countertop material on the market. Natural quartz countertops are 93% mined quartz crystals, giving them a natural depth and radiance without imperfections, cracks or irregularities. And they're as practical as they are beautiful. One of the hardest minerals found in nature, the quartz crystals are combined with technologically advanced polymers and pigments, resulting in a luxurious, smooth, high-gloss material that doesn't require sealing or polishing to maintain its luster.

Natural quartz countertops resemble the natural granite look they emulate because they consist of common materials combined by similar means. Granite is a mix of one-half to two-thirds quartz and other minerals (feldspar, mica, and iron ores) along with a binder, solidified naturally under tremendous pressure and heat deep in the earth. Engineered stone is formed synthetically by a patented, hi-tech process that compresses and compacts crushed particles of quartz with polymers.

Pros: Extremely durable, resists stains, heat and scratches, and is virtually maintenance-free; available in a wide range of vibrant colors

Cons: Expensive





Corian Design Studio, NYC, Feature Wall with Drawers



Designer White



Solid Surface

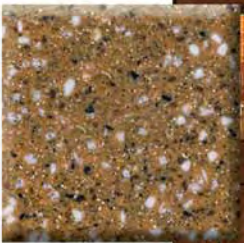
Solid surface is an extremely versatile countertop material in design and application, offering a host of performance and aesthetic benefits. A hard, non-porous material, solid surface is a blend of natural minerals and high performance acrylics. Because it uses bonded integral seams, joints appear almost invisible and are impervious to moisture.



Antique Glass



Solid surface can be custom cut and bonded to fit nearly any surface shape. It can be formed, inlaid, carved, routed, and thermoformed (heated and shaped) for decorative edging, inlays, borders, trim, etc. It's also the most forgiving countertop material on the market. Since the color and pattern is uniform throughout the product, scratches, chips and stains can be sanded out and the surface "renewed" - reconditioned and restored - to its original finish.



Sienna Quartz



Because solid surface is "user friendly" it is often used in restaurants and hospitals.

Pros: Hygienic- won't promote the growth of mold or bacteria; seamless; virtually maintenance-free, resistant to staining and doesn't require sealing or polishing; comes in a rainbow of colors and patterns;

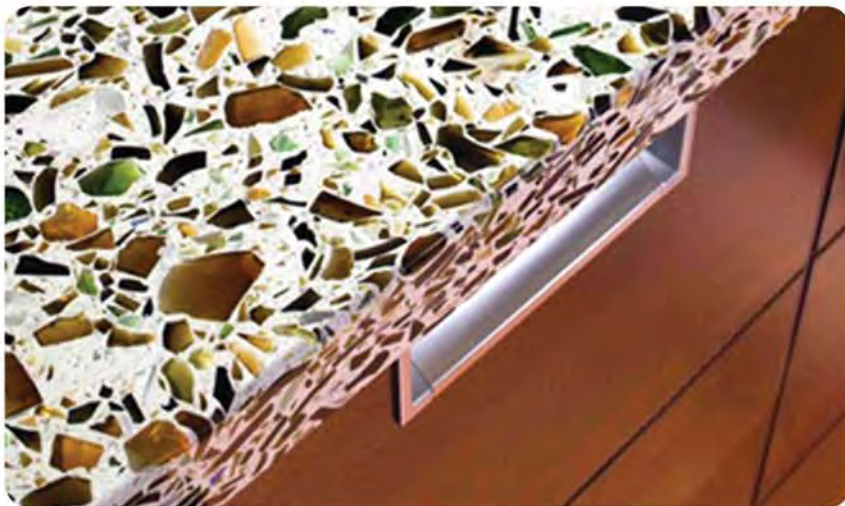
Cons: Vulnerable to hot pans and stains which can damage the surface; can be moderately expensive



PaperStone® is made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper that has been saturated with PetroFree™ phenolic resins. PaperStone's non-porous surface provides a lifetime of stain resistance and it absorbs virtually no water. It is heat resistant to 350°F and has been certified 'food safe' by NSF.



IceStone® is made from three core ingredients: 100% recycled glass, Portland cement, and pigment. This simple recipe makes IceStone the world's safest, most sustainable durable surface.



ALKEMI® acrylic is a great and beautiful sustainable surfacing alternative made from pre-consumer waste aluminum flake, solid surface scrap and recycled acrylic. These surface materials are VOC free, safe for people and friendly to the environment.



Green

Some of the most unique and modern designs are made out of recycled materials, and from pre-consumer glass that glitters like an emerald embellished surface to scrap aluminum with awe inspiring reflecting properties, at TWD Surfaces our green products are LEED certified; an accreditation developed under the United States Green Building Council in order to transform the built environment to sustainability by providing the building industry with consistent, credible standards for what constitutes a green building. The eco-friendly nature of these choices may also give you the satisfaction of having helped the environment.



PaperStone®
The Countertop with a Conscience™

IceStone®
Countertop with a Conscience™

alkemi



eco



Marble

Because of its extremely high price tag, marble is not often seen on the countertops of whole kitchens. To get the luxurious look, use it on an island or inset at a baking center. Marble requires constant maintenance, as it easily stains. Some new sealers retard staining.

Pros: waterproof; heatproof; beautiful.

Cons: expensive; porous; stains easily unless professionally sealed; can scratch; may need resealing periodically as per manufacturer.

artisan stone
COLLECTION



Bianco Carrara



Breccia Sarda



Calacatta Gold



Crema Marfil



Emperador Dark



Soapstone

Soapstone offers a unique, soft color with light flowing veins. When oiled, soapstone exhibits an even more dramatic color variation. It exudes warmth and softness to the touch. It is often seen in historic homes but is also used in modern homes as both a countertop and sink material.

Pros: rich, deep color; stain resistant.

Cons: requires regular maintenance with applications of mineral oil; may crack and darken over time.



SARATOGA™
SOAPSTONE



Hudson Ash



Mineral Black



Saratoga Black



Stillwater Grey



Vineyard Green

Photographs are representations only. The actual color and pattern of these unique stones will vary from these photographs.