## countertop materials What's the Difference?

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Quartz is a mixture of 93% quartz and man-made resin blended to create different looks that mimic natural stone. It has a very high density rating that naturally prevents bacteria and most stains from penetration. It does not need to be sealed, and has a more uniform look. It can only withstand up to 150 degree temperatures, so make sure you've got a trivet or hot pad ready for anything coming out of the oven.

Granite \$\$-\$\$\$\$

Granite is a 100% natural product that has a variety of looks and textures. It will range in cost depending on where the material is coming from around the world. It does need sealed with a high quality sealer, but only needs applied about every 5-10 years. With proper sealing, granite will be completely stain and bacteria resistant. It can withstand any temperature without damage, up to 500 degrees.

Marble \$\$\$\$

Marble is a 100% natural product, but is much more delicate than it's granite sister. It is mostly comprised of limestone that crystallizes and fuses together over time and with high amounts of pressure. It is softer, susceptible to etching/scratching, and although it is beautiful, we only recommended it in bathrooms or low use areas. It does require sealing, but would still be prone to etching should an acid come into contact for a lenghty period of time. No making margaritas on this top!

## Laminate \$\$

Plastic Laminates have come a long way in their overall aesthetic, and are a budget-friendly option. They can be textured, smooth, or glossy, and come in a variety of colors/patterns. It is bacteria resistant and requires no sealing. It is naturally stain-resistant, but is prone to scratching, chipping, and the finish can be worn through over time. It can withstand heat up to 250 degrees, but it is still a good idea to use a trivet no matter the temp to prevent burn marks.

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