

Solid Surface Vs Other Materials

	NSF Certified	Manufacturer Warranty Available	Coves Available	Integrated Sinks Available	Non-Porous	Renewable	Repairable	Chemical Resistant	Stain Resistant	Seamless Appearance	Colour and Pattern Options
Solid Surface	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wood	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Ceramic Tiles	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Laminate	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Stainless Steel	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Paper Composite	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Marble	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Granite	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓
Concrete	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Engineered Stone (Silestone, Ceasarstone)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quartz	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Epoxy Glass	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Trespa	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Solid Surface:

- Highly sought after for its hygienic properties, Solid Surface is NSF Certified, meaning it is safe for food preparation areas, making it an ideal choice for home kitchens, professional kitchens and office tea points.
- Easy to maintain with a non-porous surface, and spillages can be wiped off with ordinary household cleaning products.
- Most brands come with a minimum of 10 years manufacturer's warranty, the products are built to last and manufacturers and fabricators are always on hand to give care and maintenance advice.
- Scratches and stains can be easily sanded out by the occupants, saving the homeowner money by not having to call in professionals to get their worktop looking as good as new.
- Solid Surface can be thermoformed into almost any shape to fit around the rest of the room. Unlike a lot of materials, seamless coves can be created, resulting in a beautiful, smooth transition between your countertop and an upstand, splashback or wall panel. This also makes cleaning a lot easier as there are no crevices for dirt and bacteria to get trapped.
- Solid Surface works well with other materials, clients may also choose to have a built in Solid Surface sink, which can be incorporated into the worktop seamlessly. Perfect for kitchens and bathrooms.
- There are many brands of Solid Surface, all creating their own unique colours and patterns. There are now hundreds of options to choose from, so you can always find the right one to match your home or business.

Natural Wood

- Unlike Solid Surface, wood countertops are not certified by NSF for food preparation, this is because even though they are sealed, they are still porous, meaning dirt and bacteria can easily penetrate the surface and become ingrained in the wood.
- Stains and chemicals can permanently damage the worksurface. Although it may be possible for a professional to repair them, this could be expensive and it is unlikely your worktop will look as good as new afterwards. In comparison, Solid Surface can usually be renewed by the homeowner with a sander, and it is resistant to stains and chemicals.
- Wood countertops are built to last and most manufacturers offer a lifetime warranty covering defects in the material, however this may not cover the finish, therefore it is up to the homeowner to protect the surface, and any damages such as scratches and stains, heat or weather damage are not covered by the warranty.
- Wood works well with other materials, but integrated sinks and coved upstands are not available, these must be sourced by different companies. As wood expands and contracts in changing climates, this could leave gaps for water and bacteria to get trapped. Solid Surface has a seamless finish and can be integrated with sinks and upstands made from solid surface or other materials.
- There are many variations for the type of wood you can choose, however the colour and pattern options available compared to other countertop materials are quite limited. There are colours of Solid Surface that imitate wood, such as Corian Beech Nuwood and Mahogany Nuwood, these appear very similar to real wood, but with all the added benefits of Solid Surface.

Ceramic Tiles:

- Ceramic tiles are not NSF approved, this is due to dirt and bacteria being able to grow between the tiles, however, the smooth surface is chemical resistant and easy to wipe clean. Solid Surface, having a seamless finish, means there is nowhere for dirt and bacteria to get trapped.
- Ceramic tiles do not normally come with a manufacturer warranty, and are generally replaced, rather than repaired. The benefit of tiles is that one can usually be replaced without having to replace the entire worktop. The benefit of Solid Surface being that the worktop can usually be repaired with a sander by the homeowner.
- Hundreds of colour and pattern options available with a wide range of bright to neutral colours.

Laminate:

- Laminate is a low budget option suitable in most kitchen types, with almost any colour and pattern available.
- Most brands come with a manufacturer warranty and products can often be repaired by a professional.
- Coves can be made with laminated surfaces, so there is a smooth transition between the surface and an upstand. However, integrated sinks are not available, meaning these must be sourced and installed by a different company. Solid Surface countertops can be made with integrated sinks and coved upstands for a beautiful smooth transition.
- Laminate is non-porous and it is chemical and stain resistant, making it easy to clean. But seams are visible and unsightly, and are a place where dirt and bacteria might gather.
- It is fairly hard wearing, however damage to the surface that can occur over time, may not be repairable and may lead to the surface having to be replaced. Solid Surface however, can normally be repaired or sanded down to look as good as new and last a long time.

Stainless Steel:

- Stainless Steel is a practical choice for professional kitchens such as restaurants, cafes and even staff room kitchens. It is not a common choice for residential properties due to its appearance.
- It is NSF approved as it is non porous and resistant to stains, scratches and chemicals. With regular use, light surface scratches will appear from sharp objects, however these are not considered to be damage to the worktop.
- It has a seamless appearance and integrated sinks and coves are available for a smooth and consistent finish.
- Stainless steel does not normally come with a manufacturer warranty.
- The only major drawbacks of Stainless Steel in the home is the colour, there is only one colour and it wouldn't look good in most home environments. Also, the material itself, it is cold and makes a loud noise when items are placed on it.
- Solid Surface has all the benefits of Stainless Steel but is available with a wide range of patterns and colours. The material is not cold to the touch and looks good in any home.

Paper Composite:

- Paper Composite worktops are a non-porous, renewable and stain resistant option.
- There are not many colour and pattern options available at this time in Paper Composite. In comparison, Solid Surface has hundreds of colour and pattern options.
- Paper Composite worktops normally come with a manufacturer's warranty; however, the material is not repairable and can easily be damaged by chemicals. Solid Surface is covered by a manufacturer's warranty, it is also easy to repair and resistant to chemicals and stains.
- Coves and integrated sinks are not available with paper composite worktops and they are not NSF certified.
- Solid Surface sinks and coved upstands are available to match countertops and vanity tops, they can be made with a seamless finish. Along with the non-porous nature of Solid Surface, this makes it more hygienic, and it is approved by the NSF for safe food preparation areas.

Marble:

- Marble is a natural, beautiful material, that people often specify before they realise the price is so high, and products such as Solid Surface have so many more benefits without the high price.
- Being a natural stone, Marble can be damaged by stains and scratches, and it is not repairable once damaged. Solid Surface offers a wide range of colours and patterns imitating Marble but with all the added benefits of Solid Surface.
- Marble is not NSF certified and not recommended for high traffic areas. Solid Surface brands offer very similar products with much more practical features.
- Integrated sinks and coves are not available in Marble, meaning they must be sourced separately.
- There are a lot of colour and pattern options available for Marble and each worktop will be unique. However, the material is heavy and should be installed by a professional.

Granite:

- Granite worktops are non-porous and resistant to stains; however, they can be damaged by chemicals and are not NSF approved.
- Solid Surface worktops are resistant to stains and chemicals and the non-porous surface is one of the most hygienic options for kitchen countertops.
- Granite normally comes with a manufacturer's warranty; however, it is not renewable or repairable.
- Solid Surface worktops can be refreshed by the homeowner just using a sander, and if necessary, repaired by the fabricators the worktop was purchased from.
- Integrated sinks and coves are not available in Granite, but there are a lot of colour options to choose from to suit any kitchen.
- Solid Surface worktops come in a wide range of colours and patterns, and it is possible to buy matching sinks and upstands that can be joined seamlessly.

Concrete:

- Concrete is a hard-wearing material that can be made in almost any colour. However, it is a cold material that may make the home feel cold during winter months.
- It is non-porous and is resistant to stains and chemicals. Solid Surface is also non-porous and is approved by the NSF for food preparation areas due to its hygienic properties.
- Like Solid Surface, coves and integrated Concrete sinks can be built and will have a seamless appearance.
- Concrete manufacturers do not normally offer a manufacturer's warranty, however most Solid Surface brands come with at least 10 years warranty.
- Concrete is not renewable and is not repairable if it gets damaged, meaning the surface would have to be replaced if it becomes damaged which could be very costly to the owner.

Engineered Stone:

- Engineered Stone is a popular, hygienic material similar to Solid Surface.
- It is NSF certified for food areas because it is non porous, seamless and resistant to stains and chemicals.
- Most brands will offer a manufacturer's warranty and the product can be repaired if necessary.
- You can also get integrated, seamless sinks, but not coves. Solid Surface brands can offer coved upstands for a seamless transition that is much easier to keep clean.
- There are a lot of colour and pattern options available to choose from in engineered stone. Solid Surface also comes in hundreds of different colours and patterns.

Quartz:

- Quartz is a natural product and a popular choice for homes. It is mined from the ground meaning it is quite expensive to produce but every worktop will have a unique appearance. This does however mean that if you wanted to order extra material or replace parts of the worktop, you would not be able to get the exact same finish and the difference is likely to be noticeable. Therefore, the whole worktop would need to be replaced at a time.
- Quartz is hygienic because it is non porous, seamless and resistant to stains and chemicals.
- Most brands will offer a manufacturer's warranty and the products are renewable and repairable.
- Quartz is not NSF approved and integrated sinks and coves are not available. Solid Surface offers a wide range of matching sinks and coved upstands to perfectly match your kitchen.

Epoxy Glass:

- Glass countertops are available in transparent and translucent colours and patterns. Some Solid Surface brands also offer a range of colours that are translucent and work really well with LED lights placed behind them. This is a great way to light up your worktop and works really well in restaurants, bars and reception desks.
- Glass is long lasting and non-porous, meaning it is resistant to stains and chemicals. However, it is not NSF approved.
- Glass countertops are not usually repairable if scratched or damaged, so they need to be well looked after. Scratches would normally be a lot less noticeable on a Solid Surface countertop as it is less shiny, especially for lighter colours like white.
- Integrated coves and sinks are not available in glass so these would have to be made from a contrasting material, and seams are normally visible and can collect dirt and bacteria.

Trespa:

- Trespa is a non porous and hygienic material, that is resistant to stains and chemicals. It is hard wearing and often used outside.
- It comes with a manufacturer's warranty and is renewable and repairable if damaged.
- Integrated sinks and coves are not available in Trespa.
- The surface is seamless and there are lots of colour options to choose from.
- Solid Surface is a similar alternative to Trespa, however it is NSF certified, meaning it is more hygienic and perfect for use in kitchens and bathrooms.
- You can also purchase integrated Solid Surface sinks and Coved upstands which can be made with a seamless finish for even more hygienic properties.