

The Remodeling Professor Presents:

All About Kitchen Countertops

1. Characteristics of countertops to compare:

- Looks
- Protection (of cabinets and wall)
- Durability
- Value
- Maintenance

2. Common Countertop Materials: Pros & Cons

Bamboo Tops:

- Widely available (pro)
- Very Inexpensive (pro)
- GREEN product (pro)
- Decent color range (pro)
- Two different grain looks (pro)
- Two finish options (fact)
- Seams at joints (con)
- Surface damage by regular use (con)
- Requires some maintenance (con)

Butcher Block / Wood Tops:

- Widely available (pro)
- Inexpensive (pro)
- Wide color variety (pro)
- Several finish options (pro)
- Seams at joints (con)
- Surface damage by regular use (con)
- Requires regular maintenance (con)

Concrete Tops:

- Cool & Trendy (pro)
- Some new options to mimic wood (pro)
- Difficult to Make - Hand Made (con)
- Quality varies wildly based on craftsman (con)
- Long Lead Times (con)
- Very Expensive (con)
- Limited color variety (con)
- Very Thick & heavy (con)
- THICK = TALL - can alter spacing with wall cabinets (con)
- Must be sealed/finished (con)
- High Maintenance (con)

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Granite Tops:

- **VERY widely available** (pro)
- **Large price range \$ to \$\$\$\$\$** (pro)
- **SHORT lead times** (pro)
- **Free sink included** (pro)
- **Installation included** (pro)
- **WIDE color variety** (pro)
- **Multiple edges / thicknesses** (pro)
- **VERY durable** (pro)
- **Must be sealed** (fact)
- **Seams visible** (small con)
- **Must be sealed** (very small con)
- **FEW solid colors** (con)

Laminate Tops:

- **Very Widely Available** (pro)
- **LOW cost** (pro)
- **VERY LARGE color variety** (pro)
- **Multiple edges** (pro)
- **NOT very durable** (con)
- **SEAMS at joints** (con)
- **Cheap look and feel** (con)

Quartz Tops:

- **Widely Available** (pro)
- **Installation included** (pro)
- **Good color variety** (pro)
- **Multiple edges / thicknesses** (pro)
- **Seamless** (pro)
- **The MOST durable** (pro)
- **No regular sealing required** (pro)
- **Easy cleaning / not easily stained** (pro)
- **VERY EXPENSIVE** (con)

Recycled Glass Tops:

- **Durable** (pro)
- **GREEN product** (pro)
- **Seamless** (pro)
- **Easy cleaning / maintenance** (pro)
- **Limited Availability** (con)
- **Installation may not be included** (con)
- **Limited color variety** (con)
- **Limited edges** (con)
- **VERY EXPENSIVE** (con)

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Soapstone Tops:

- Looks 'cool' (pro)
- **SMALL color variety** (con)
- **Seams at joints** (con)
- **Stains/absorbs easily** (con)
- **Limited Availability** (con)
- **Installation may not be included** (con)
- **Soft stone, can scratch/stain** (con)
- **Limited colors** (con)
- **Limited edges** (con)
- **Requires regular sealing** (con)
- **VERY EXPENSIVE** (con)

Solid Surface (Corian/Macs) Tops:

- **LARGE color variety** (pro)
- **Seamless** (pro)
- **Stains / burns easily** (con)
- **Scratches easily** (con)
- **Installation included** (pro)
- **Integral sinks** (pro)
- **Variety of edges** (pro)
- **VERY EXPENSIVE** (con)

Tile Tops: Ceramic & Porcelain:

- **Easy to Make / Wide 'availability'** (pro)
- **Inexpensive** (pro)
- **Wide color variety** (pro)
- **High durability** (pro)
- **Could blend well with backsplash** (pro)
- **Grout requires some maintenance** (con)
- **Grout lines / Seams/ bumps** (con)

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Relative costs of different countertops:

