

# Kitchen Counter Materials

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

Replacing kitchen countertops can be a great way to update the look of your kitchen with minimal demolition for maximum “wow” factor. Installing new countertops can help draw attention away from older cabinetry and appliances.

Countertop material also can be a crucial decision at the heart of your kitchen’s design aesthetic. Sleek, modern quartz sets a very different scene than rustic, functional butcher block.

Cost can vary greatly depending on the material you choose. So, where do you start? Consider the following options to find the material that will be the most functional and aesthetically pleasing in your kitchen.

## SOLID SURFACE

**Cost: \$25-\$75 per square foot**

Made from acrylic and designed to withstand years of wear. Solid surface counter tops often includes an integrated sink for easy installation. This material resists stains and moisture.

## LAMINATES

**Cost: \$5 and up per square foot**

Laminate keeps costs low but is not heat resistant. You may be able to find extra laminate materials at your local home improvement store for a deep discount.

## GRANITE

**Cost: \$45-\$100 per square foot**

Durable and beautiful, this natural stone resists heat, scratching and requires no sealing. It also is among the most expensive materials you’ll find on the market.

## MARBLE

**Cost: \$125 and up per square foot**

The ultimate stone in homeowner luxury. It is beautiful, durable and scorch resistant, which garner it serious appeal from serious cooks.

## BUTCHER BLOCK

**Cost: \$35-\$100 per square foot**

Wood provides a warmth to a kitchen that stone simply can’t supply. It

can be refinished multiple times and ages well.

## QUARTZ

**Cost: \$70 and up per square foot**

A hard stone and non-porous — so it offers anti-bacterial benefits that any hygienic household covet.

## CONCRETE

**Cost: \$70 and up per square foot**

The industrial look is in and con-

crete is a modern favorite for kitchens. Countertops can be poured both on or off-site, and can be stained and finished to suit any style.

## CERAMIC TILE

**Cost: \$5 and up per square foot**

Durable and affordable, tile comes in a range of sizes, shapes and patterns. Just remember to clean and seal all grout on a regular basis to repel bacteria.







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## REAL ESTATE 101



### Budget Check

If you're considering taking on a remodeling project, it's important to know that home building (and thus remodeling) costs are rising. In April 2017, the National Association of Home Builders reported that according to the Producer Price Index, building material prices were up, particularly softwood lumber and engineered wood panels. NAHB reported that softwood lumber prices were up 12.9 percent since March 2016, which NAHB attributed in large part to a long-running trade dispute between the U.S. and Canada.

## HOMESWISE GLOSSARY

**Quantity survey:** A highly technical process in arriving at cost estimate of new construction. It involves a detailed estimate of the quantities of raw material (lumber, plaster, brick, cement, etc.,) used as well as the current price of the material and installation costs.

**SOURCE:** California Bureau of Real Estate

# AD SPACE