
GOLD SEAL NEWS & TIPS

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Solid Surface vs. Granite vs. Laminate

The Great Debate

Composition

Solid Surface- 100% Solid-a blend of natural and high performance acrylics. Consistent color and pattern run all the way through and cannot wear away.

Granite- Dark, beautiful colors, no solids or white. Tone and texture varies. Shiny surface.

Laminate-Consists of layers of paper treated with resin and pressed together under high heat and pressure. Numerous finishes available.

Looks

Solid Surface- 65+ consistent colors of various textures. Rich visual translucency.

Granite- Dark, beautiful colors, no solids or white. Tone and texture varies. Shiny surface.

Laminate-There are hundreds of laminate colors and patterns. They range from vibrant pure colors to hundreds of patterns that simulate the look of stone and wood.

Design Versatility

Solid Surface- Can be cut, formed, inlaid, carved, routed and thermo formed to create unlimited, unique designs. Solid surface sinks are available to create a color-coordinated look with no visible seams. Seamless looking countertops with angle or L-shapes.

Granite- Limited design. No granite sinks available. Sink installation creates visible seams. L-shapes and angles have visible seams

Laminate-Offers more edge choices than other materials. To name a few edges; rolled, beveled, wood, solid surface inserts.

Like granite, there can be seams where larger tops come together, but a good fabricator can make them almost disappear.

Ease Of Cleaning

Solid Surface- Easy to clean, with no open seams to trap dirt. Nonporous surface resists stains. Liquids cannot penetrate.

Granite- Porous surface can stain. Visible seams trap dirt and can be difficult to clean. Granite is not approved by the FDA for food preparation surfaces.

Laminate-Easy to clean, spills like wine and spaghetti sauce come off with little effort.

Mold and Bacteria

Solid Surface- Meets the FDA standards for food contact for fungal and bacteria resistance.

Granite- Has small surface crevices so it's harder to keep them free of mildew and bacteria. Proper sealing and maintenance can protect against these conditions- as long as the sealant remains in tact.

Laminate-Is also a non porous product, so it will not hold any bacteria or mildew.

Durability

Solid Surface- Nicks, cuts and scratches are easily removed with ordinary abrasive cleaner or sandpaper. Solid surface is repairable- damage can be repaired and not be noticeable. Like new appearance with minimal maintenance.

Granite- Scratches are hard to remove. Professional care required. Nicks, chips and cracks may not be repairable. Must be resealed and polished. May need replacements.

Laminate-Is a strong material, but it won't resist a determined attempt to cut it with a knife. These cuts can be repaired, but use of a cutting board is strongly recommended.

Heat Resistance

Solid Surface- Minor heat damage usually can be buffed away by the homeowner. More severe heat damage can be repaired by your certified installer. Trivets are recommended to protect against exposure to extreme heat.

Granite- Is very heat resistant, however the sealant used on the hot surface is not. Trivets are also recommended by the stone industry to prevent thermal shock to the surface.

Laminate-Heat will cause the most damage to laminate. Excessive heat will leave a scorch mark or a bubble. You must use a trivet to protect your laminate surfaces.

Warranty

Solid Surface- Backed by a 10 year installed warranty from the manufacturer- covers product quality and installation. Transferable if you sell your home.

Granite- No warranty unless provided by the installer.

Laminate-1 year manufacturer's warranty, which is NOT transferable.

CURRENT SPECIALS

Corian is currently offering "Your Style, Your Color For Less" which offers a 30% savings on some of their most popular colors and some of the Private Collection series!

Corian is also offering the Top Choice promotion, which is a **FREE Corian Intergal Sink.**

HI-MACS is offering **free** standard sinks, Level I Sinks are **\$99 each** and the Level II Sinks are just **\$249.00 each.**

