

Product type	Price per SqFt	Pros	Cons
<p>Granite, is one of the hardest natural materials, is primarily made up of quartz and feldspar. An expensive option, granite's unique beauty and longevity make it an elegant choice.</p>	\$75.00 to \$250.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds up to heat. • Comes in beautiful colors. • Looks permanent and substantial. • Available in many varieties, in various edge treatments, and in polished, honed, and matte finishes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very expensive. • Requires lots of maintenance, including periodic sealing. • Porous material, it absorbs stains and bacteria. • Can crack. • Limited range of colors. • Cutting on the surface is not recommended. • Sizes are limited, and slabs must be pieced together for larger areas.
<p>Slate, is a natural stone that features nonporous, heat- resistant qualities.</p>	\$100.00 to \$200.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any scratches can usually be removed easily with a damp sponge. Deeper scratches may be buffed out with a steel wool pad. • Slate mined in Vermont requires no sealing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Softer than granite, slate has edges that should be rounded to discourage chipping. • Limited color choices: available in tones of green, gray, purple and black.
<p>Soapstone (Steatite), a material that has been used in kitchens for centuries, achieves a traditional, rustic look.</p>	\$100.00 to \$150.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soapstone is primarily composed of talc, making it soft and smooth to the touch. • Thermally resistant to burning. • Reapplying a coat of mineral oil periodically will enhance its luster and act as a sealer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Expensive. • Porous stone, it absorbs stains and bacteria. • Limited to color ranges of blue and grey.
<p>Solid Surface Materials are manufactured from acrylic resins and /or polyester plastics.</p>	\$150 to \$200.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering seamless construction, solid surface materials can easily accommodate large areas or a built- in sink. • Nonporous, solid surface resists most liquid and food stains. • Available in numerous solid colors and evenly distributed patterns, they can be found with matte and polished finishes, and with a wide selection of edging details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Expensive. • Brittle and can crack under blunt force. • Repair of scratches and stains require sanding. • Trivets are recommended, as hot pots will melt the finish.
<p>Engineered Stone, combines natural quartz and silica sands under extreme pressure at very high temperatures to create a product that looks like granite, marble, or travertine.</p>	\$150 to \$200.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonporous, engineered stone is stain-, acid-, mold-, and mildew-resistant and hard enough to resist chips and scratches. • Available in a variety of colors, patterns and finishes, it is produced in ½", ¾" and ¼" thick slabs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Expensive. • Brittle and can easily crack under blunt force. • Uniform in appearance. • Seams will be visible along the front edges.

<p>Concrete, contains natural materials: stone, silica-based cement, water, and pigment. Cast in molds and structurally reinforced, it is either pre-cast in a shop or done on-site.</p>	<p>\$85.00 to \$100.00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with marble or granite, seams can become part of the design element. • Highly customizable; can be sculpted, molded and textured. • Is safe for commercial food-service areas. • Can be cast on site or in a manufacturer's controlled environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely porous, concrete must be properly resealed periodically to resist stains. • Avoid cutting directly on the surface, as this will compromise the sealant. • Rather unpredictable in nature, concrete may crack and will change color, developing a warm patina over time. • Hairline cracks may develop from the natural shrinkage of the concrete.
<p>Ceramic Tile Same as flooring.</p>	<p>\$30.00 to \$50.00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly decorative material that comes in a wide array of sizes, shapes, colors and patterns. • Creates a durable, heat resistant surface. • Low maintenance. • Lower cost than natural stone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grout joints between the tiles are susceptible to staining, and the tiles can chip. • Only ceramic tile rated for use on floors or countertops should be used for kitchen work surfaces. • Can vary in size and color from lot to lot.
<p>Natural Stone Tile</p>	<p>\$30.00 to \$150.00+</p>		
<p>Plastic Laminate – Custom-built</p>	<p>\$15.00 to \$25.00+</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to maintain, durable, and inexpensive. • It's available in hundreds of colors and dozens of patterns, including many that resemble stone, wood and leather. • It comes in various textures, but only those with a matte or fine matte finish should be used for counters. • They're made of plastic-coated synthetics with a smooth surface that's easy to clean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-gloss or heavily embossed surfaces quickly show signs of wear. • Scratches and chips are almost impossible to repair • Seams show. • End finishing and front edge choices can be pricey.
<p>Weathered Stone™</p>	<p>\$10.00 to \$16.00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in 22 standard colors and custom colors are available. • Repairable. • Easy installation, and low cost. • Easy to maintain. • Weathered Stone™ grout is easy to clean, and will not stain. • Design possibilities are endless. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not cut directly on the surface. • Top coat must be reapplied every 4-5 years. • The product is non structural; any surface adhered to must be solid. • Requires special adhesives, clear coat, and grout supplied by the manufacturer.