

Choose the right material to suit your requirements

	Granite	Quartz Surfaces	Sintered Stones	Marble	Acrylics
Definition	A natural stone formed from the slow crystallisation of Magma below the Earth's surface. It is composed mainly of quartz and feldspar with small amounts of mica, amphiboles and other minerals. E.G. Star Galaxy, Black Pearl, Labrador Antique	Man made stone surfaces made with crushed up quartz and resins. This is then compressed under extreme pressure to produce the slabs. E.G. Silestone, CaesarStone and Cimstone	Man made stone surfaces produced using various powdered elements including natural minerals. These elements are then subjected to extreme heat and pressure which results in them changing from a powder to a solid form. E.G. Dekton, Lapitec and Neolith	A natural stone formed when Limestone is subjected to the heat and pressure of metamorphism. It is made up of Calcite along with micas, quartz, iron oxides and graphite. E.G. Carrara, Calacatta, Marron Emperador	A man made solid surface usually composed of bauxite, acrylic, epoxy or polyester resins and pigments. Products that we work with are Corian, Hi-Macs and Krion
Colour and Appearance	Granite is not a perfect material. It is subject to natural imperfections such as pitting and fissures. Every slab is different and in some cases can vary hugely in colour and pattern.	Stronger consistency in colour and pattern but differences can still occur between batches. It is still subject to slight imperfections because of the natural stone element.	The level of consistency in colour and pattern is at its highest with these products. However the pattern does not always run right through the slab and this means that the stone will have a different look and finish on the polished edges or with features like recessed drainers.	Like Granite, Marble is far from perfect. It will have pitting, scratches and other imperfections. It is incredibly variable and has to be viewed first hand before selection.	There is a consistency in relation to the colour and patterns of acrylic surfaces, although there can be slight differences between batches. It also offers a seamless finish
Price	They can range from approximately £370 per m2 to £780 per m2 for 'normal' colours. However some of the more unusual stones can be in excess of £3,000 per m2. These prices are subject to the size of the job and fabrication required	They start at around £370 per m2 and go up to approximately £1,500 per m2. These prices are subject to the size of the job and fabrication required	They start at around £620 per m2 and go up to approximately £1,100 per m2. These prices are subject to the size of the job and fabrication required	They can start at approximately £370 and go up to in excess of £3,000 per m2. These prices are subject to the size of the job and fabrication required	They start at around £400 per m2 and go up to approximately £550 per m2. These prices are subject to the size of the job and fabrication required
Applications	Most commonly used for kitchen worktops, vanity tops, fire hearths, mantles and slips	Most commonly used for kitchen worktops and bathrooms	Most commonly used for cladding and kitchen worktops	Most commonly used in bathrooms and for fire hearths, slips and mantles	Can be used for almost any application including kitchen, bathrooms and cladding.
Thickness	20mm, 30mm and 40mm (subject to availability)	12mm, 20mm and 30mm	3mm, 6mm, 8mm, 12mm, 20mm and 30mm (limited)	20mm, 30mm and 40mm (subject to availability)	3mm, 6mm, 12mm and 19mm with edges (fascias) to suit the design requirements
Strength	Strength varies according to colour and some stones behave differently to others and will require different treatment during fabrication and fitting.	Stronger than Granite with no variation between colours or manufacturers.	Currently the strongest material on the market although it is subject to flaking and chipping during fabrication.	The weakest of all the stones, Marble is very susceptible to cracks and breakage.	Due to its composition it cannot 'break' and therefore has less risk attached during fabrication and installation
Heat Resistance	Good although heat trivets should always be used	Good although heat trivets should always be used	Excellent, no need for heat trivets	Fair, heat trivets should always be used	Fair, heat trivets should always be used
Scratching and Chipping	The composition of some granites makes them more susceptible than others. Repairs are possible	Stronger than Granite but damage is still possible if mistreated. Repairs are possible	Sintered stones have a high scratch resistance but can be chippy during fabrication. If the stone is damaged repairs are very difficult and sometimes impossible	Marble is very soft and scratches and chips very easily, quite often the slabs will arrive with dinks and scratches on them. Repairs are possible	Acrylic surfaces can be scratched but these can also be easily repaired. Chopping boards are recommended.
Stain Resistance	All granite is porous however some colours, particularly the lighter ones, are more easily stained than others. We seal the stone during fabrication but this is a preventative measure not a guarantee that stains won't occur.	Very low porosity, it is possible to surface stain a quartz surface but it will not be permanent. You will be able to clean it off with the recommended products.	Zero porosity, it is impossible to stain a Sintered Stone surface.	Incredibly porous, even after sealing Marble will easily stain and mark	A non porous product so stains cannot penetrate the surface