

Granite, Quartz and Solid Surface Product Comparisons

	GRANITE	QUARTZ	SOLID SURFACE
Brand Names or suppliers of:	God / Mother Earth	Caesarstone, Hanstone, Silestone, Viatera, Vicostone, Zodiaq	Corian, Hi-Macs, Gibralter, Livingstone, Staron
What is it?	100% natural stone quarried from within the earth	93% natural quartz manufactured with a 7% resin binder	65% stone based, 30% resin binder, 5% pigments
Appearance?	Highly polished, honed or textured/leathered finish - each slab unique in color and patterning	Polished finish - can be consistent in color and patterning	Matte finish - consistent and uniform in color and patterning *ex. Private Collection by Corian
Heat Resistance?	Quite resistant to heat but can be affected by extreme changes in thermal exposure	Heat resistant; use trivets under hot pots, crock pots, etc.	Heat resistant; use trivets under hot pots, crock pots, etc.
Scratch Resistance?	Highly scratch resistant; exposure to harsh abrasives or equally hard materials could scratch granite	Highly scratch resistant; small scratches can be professionally repaired	Can scratch; scratches/cuts can be professionally refinished
Cleanliness?	Can be porous; no NSF 51 rating, but Marble is frequently used in making pastry, fudge and candy	Non-porous, anti-bacterial, can be used commercially (has NSF 51 rating)	Non-porous, anti-bacterial, can be used commercially (has NSF 51 rating)
Fabrication?	May require seams - many edge options available	Seams typically tighter than granite - many edge options available	Seams will typically be inconspicuous
Maintenance?	May require periodic sealing to prevent staining*	No sealing necessary	No sealing necessary, top can be resanded to restore original finish
Price?	Varies greatly by color and availability	Comparable to a mid priced granite	Price is based on color group

* Regarding sealing, many granites are dense enough to be used without a sealer but we always suggest that any natural stone be sealed with a high quality penetrating sealer. Some lighter stones may take several coats but should then repel oils and other staining agents. If a granite does become stained, the stain can almost always be removed with a simple poultice.