



22 Frequently Asked Questions About Quartz Countertops

(And the answers!)

If you're in the market for a quartz countertop, you probably have a few questions. Let us help. We've pulled together a list of the 22 most frequently asked questions about quartz (and the answers!) to assure you get the information you need.

How do I care for and clean my quartz countertop?

To clean your quartz countertops just use a soft cloth and mild soap. You can also use a glass cleaner and non-abrasive sponge for any dried-on food or grease. Never use abrasive cleaners or scouring pads, which can dull and scratch the surface.

What is engineered quartz?

Quartz countertops have been traditionally manufactured from about 90% natural quartz and 10% from some combination of resins, pigments and other raw materials. Given more recent trends in proprietary blending, environmental consciousness and perfected aesthetic formation, these historic raw material percentages can yield to a more innovative and oftentimes eco-friendly raw material product mix. All these combinations of natural crystals, resins and eco-friendly materials, create a nonporous surface, which results in a countertop that is impervious to stains and bacteria while oftentimes being indistinguishable from their natural counterparts.

How is quartz different from granite?

These two countertop materials do have a lot in common. Both are durable surfaces; however, quartz countertops require much less maintenance and are man made meaning they can be designed in a wide array of colors and patterns. Also, unlike granite, a quartz countertop is non-porous making it virtually impossible to stain or carry germs and bacteria. Ironically, most quartz countertops actually have more real quartz crystal content by weight than natural granite!

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Is quartz more expensive than other natural stone options?

On average quartz is more expensive than some other countertop options, like a butcher block or some natural stone. For most homeowners, the value of a durable, low-maintenance, and high-end product is worth the investment.

Can a quartz countertop chip?

Being engineered stone, a quartz countertop is hardwearing and can take quite a bit of abuse from your family. It's rare, but the stone can chip if something very heavy was dropped on it or from suffering another high-impact force. Generally speaking, quartz countertops are less likely to chip and scratch relative to most natural stones and marbles.

Can a hot pan damage your countertops, including a quartz countertop?

Taking a hot pan from the oven or cooktop and placing it directly on your countertop is never recommended, regardless of the countertop product. Whether it is drastic thermal cycling that can release built up stress in the slab or the excessive heat damaging some part of the product's raw materials - oftentimes permanently, excessive heat is a hazard for any countertop surface. Quartz countertops have a small percentage of resin that can be burned or compromised by excessive heat causing discoloring or even surface degradation. All of these hazards can be easily avoided with the use of trivets and potholders on all countertop surfaces.

Is quartz porous?

Engineered quartz is a nonporous surface. Both stains and germs are not able to penetrate the surface making it ideal for use in the kitchen, bathroom, and even home bar.

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What will stain a quartz countertop?

Quartz countertops are nonporous, which means they are extremely difficult to stain (even by highly acidic foods like tomato sauce, red wine, and citrus). Most spills (wet or dry) can be removed with a little mild soap and a soft cloth if done so soon after the spill or mess. For tougher stains, you can use a glass or surface cleaner to help remove any traces of messy meal prep.

Is quartz antimicrobial?

Yes, it's nonporous designs will not allow viruses and bacteria to penetrate the stone. With proper cleaning, your quartz countertop will be a safe and germ-free workspace.

Is quartz scratch resistant?

Quartz is tough, oftentimes, harder than granite and certainly harder than marble. Quartz is considered scratch resistant, not scratch proof. It is always best to use a cutting board when slicing and dicing.

How durable is quartz as a surface for countertops?

Purchasing quartz countertops make for a long-term investment in your home. They are, for the most part, indestructible, scratch and chip-resistant, easy to take care of (no frequent sealing required) and most brands have a lengthy product warranty.

Are quartz countertops made of pure quartz?

Quartz countertops are made from real quartz crystals; a highly abundant natural mineral found in and all over the earth. Rose, smokey, clear and even green are some of the more common occurring colors in quartz rocks that add theory crystalline beauty to the finished product. Polyresins and hints of pigment are then added to create what we know as quartz countertops. The finished engineered product retains many of the benefits of natural stone, but also has the added benefit of not being porous (thanks to the resin) making it ideal for use inside the home.



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Can a quartz countertop look like real marble?

Yes, quartz countertops can often look just like real marble and oftentimes the premium version of most naturally occurring marble. Available in many variations of white and cream and with a wide range of veining. If you like the look of marble, but want a more hardworking surface, quartz is a great option.

What is the difference between a honed and a polished finish?

A polished finish appears glassy and has a shine that will reflect light. A honed finish is matte and appears the texture of satin. These options are mostly cosmetic and don't change the qualities of the surface; ultimately made to appease various design tastes in a space.

Can I use quartz in the bathroom?

Yes, quartz countertops are ideal for use in the bathroom since they are non-porous.

Is quartz environmentally friendly?

Yes. Not only is quartz naturally made, but it is found in abundance. Unlike marble and granite, which must be mined from specific locations, quartz can be made anywhere (requiring fewer carbon emissions in transport). Also, since they're nonporous, quartz countertops do not require the frequent application of chemical-based sealants making them a long-term eco-friendly option.

What colors and designs can I choose from?

There is a wide variety of options when choosing a quartz countertop. From the look of premium natural stone that embodies visual texture, movement and pristine mineral pigments to exotic Italian marble with bright backgrounds and complex veining, to solid hues with flecks of recycled glass, you'll find more quartz options than natural stone to fit your style and décor.



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What are quartz slab dimensions?

Unlike marble and granite, which come in an infinite variety of sizes from small tiles to wall-size slabs, engineered quartz countertops come in standard sizes. The actual size of the quartz slab varies slightly by manufacturer, but the average size is around 50-55 square feet.

Can I install it on my own?

Quartz countertops are extremely heavy and can be difficult to work with if you are not skilled in counter installation. It is advised to always have them installed (and measured) by a professional.

What is the difference between quartz and laminate?

Both products are lower maintenance than natural stone. But laminate is an inexpensive material that can damage easily - primarily made of resin soaked paper whose top layer is an extremely thin decorative layer all meant to be glued to a wood substrate.. Quartz is a much more substantial product that is ultra-durable and will last for years and is warranted as such by most manufacturers.

Will there be seams in my countertops?

This depends on several factors: Delivery and installation logistics, size and shape of the countertops, yield in your slab depending on aesthetic and cutting layout will all determine the necessity of a seam or not. Proper planning and design can keep needed seams to minimum - if any at all. Ask your fabricator before your job is in production what, if any, are the seaming options.

Can quartz be used for a backsplash?

Yes, there is no reason to think quartz can only be used for countertops. It's an ideal surface for kitchen and bathroom backsplashes, waterfall kitchen islands, vanities, wet bars, tub and shower walls and more.