

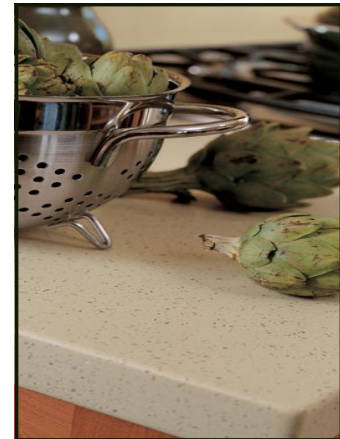
SOLID SURFACING: A 40-year-old Wunderkind in the Kitchen



Corian, the first solid surface, now has many rivals. Leading the pack is **Hi-Macs** by **LG** which offers an industry leading **15-year Transferable Warranty**, great pricing and a line of **Recycled** colours called the 'Eden' Series. **Formica**, long known for its plastic laminate, offers a premium line of unique solid surface colours favoured by designers. **Avonite** offers a variety of colours, including a series of colours that are translucent versions that are glasslike in appearance translucent and glasslike in appearance. This allows for innovative treatments like countertops and tub surrounds that are under lit with rope lighting that shines through the translucent colours — creating a spectacular and unique look. **Staron** by Samsung, in addition to their regular colours, has recently expanded their Tempest Series, colours that offer depth and look like quartz without the high cost.

Natural versus Artificial

All of these solid surface products are essentially the same stuff: acrylic resin plus a mineral filler called ATH, or aluminum trihydrate. ATH is refined from bauxite ore and looks like a tan powder. Bauxite is a form of clay, which means that when it comes to the natural vs. artificial thing, **solid surface starts as one of the most abundant and natural minerals on earth**. All of these materials are 'Green Guard Certified' for low or no emissions of harmful chemical gases.



A Long List of Attributes

Regardless of brand, Solid Surfacing has a long list of attributes that make it an ideal countertop material.

- * Solid Surfacing is the same material all the way through. Minor surface blemishes (a scorch mark, or scratch for example) can be sanded out. Even severe damage can be repaired like new!
- * It's nonporous, so it's easy to keep clean and bacteria can't penetrate. Very low maintenance.
- * It's highly stain resistant. No need to seal it.
- * Solid Surfacing can be fashioned into a sink and then glued to the countertop for a seamless, leak proof installation without any crevices or edges to catch and hold food and debris.
- * Solid Surfacing comes with a long Guarantee: Up to 15 Years!
- * We can create almost any shape that you can imagine as we can bend the material. We can even create seamless countertops using several different colours.

Using Solid Surface for your Countertops

Those aiming for a 'picture-perfect' kitchen should certainly investigate solid surfacing. Made of solid sheets formed by mixing a mineral compound with acrylic resins, the countertop is smooth and uniform throughout. You can get the **look of stone without the seams** or color variations. Solid surfacing's flexibility and formability also offers the opportunity to create unique countertop contours, such as an island shaped like an artist's pallet. Solid surfacing comes in **hundreds of colours** (even translucent versions that are glass-like in appearance). There is a look to suit every application, style and décor.

