

HOME CARE GUIDE

Bath

Countertops



Bathroom countertops offer you good looks and service for many years when properly maintained.

Countertops can be made from a variety of materials, including plastic laminate, solid surface, stone, and tile. There are different ways to care for each of these materials. Improper maintenance also will compromise the look and longevity of your countertops.

Plastic laminate

Plastic laminate is a thin sheet of plastic bonded to a wooden base. Typically, it has a pre-formed edge. Plastic laminate comes in a wide selection of colors, patterns, and textures, but the joints are somewhat noticeable. As a countertop, it's very durable, low maintenance, and easy to clean.

Solid surface

Solid surface countertops are made from an acrylic or polyester plastic. They're durable but do require some maintenance. These countertops can have elaborate edge treatments and can be joined together seamlessly.

Natural stone

Granite, limestone, quartz, and travertine are popular materials for natural stone countertops. Of these materials, granite is the most durable. Under normal use, it's highly resistant to both stains and scratches. In general, natural stone surfaces are not stain and scratch-proof. However, some types, like granite, are more resistant than others. Your countertop's manufacturer should be able to provide you with information specific to the material installed in your bathroom.

Marble is actually petrified calcium, rather than stone. It has a softer surface, so it's more likely to stain and scratch, especially from citric acids, oils, and alcohol. Even minimal spills can leave permanent marks in the surface. Precautions should be taken to protect marble from damage.

Tile

Tile is a long-lasting, durable material that's easy to clean. It's available as ceramic or stone. Tile is generally easy to maintain over the life of your home. The grout between tiles requires a little more work, as grout needs to be cleaned regularly to avoid staining. Overall, tile is a great material for bathroom countertops, but it can also be used in many other rooms as a wall or floor finish.

See: [Tile and grout](#)