

Alternative Worktops

**An overview of worktops
made from a variety of
material**

Wood Manufacturing & Finishing Phase 4

Alternative Worktops

- Granite
- Marble
- Engineered Stone
- Solid Wood
- Composite Resin Corian©, LG©
- Stainless Steel
- Glass
- Epoxy Resin

Granite Worktops

- Granite is one of the most durable work surfaces for use in the kitchen.
- The uses of Granite is not just limited to work surface, Granite can be used for splash backs and windowsills.
- Granite worktop can also be enhanced with a recessed drainer, curved flutes and under mounted sink cut outs.



GRANITE



QUARTZ



MARBLE

- Click the link to see [McKenna Stone](#) range of products.

Granite Worktops

- While granite is very hard and scratch resistant, it can stain. When spills occur, wipe them up immediately.
- Red wine stains will clearly show up more on light granite.
- Clean greasy, oil-based spills with hydrogen peroxide or an ammonia-based cleaner and paint thinner.
- To learn about “18 Awesome Countertops That Aren’t Granite” click this [link](#).

Radioactive Granites



- It is possible for any granite sample to contain varying concentrations of uranium and other naturally occurring radioactive elements.
- However, at this time the [Environment Protection Agency](#) believes that the existing data is insufficient to conclude that the types of granite commonly used in countertops are significantly increasing indoor radon levels.
- While radiation levels are not typically high, measurements of specific samples may reveal higher than expected levels on a case-by-case basis.

Marble

- Expensive; porous; stains easily unless professionally sealed; can scratch; may need resealing periodically. Soda drinks and fruit juices etch the surface.
- Not recommended for Kitchen Worktops.



Marble Sink Top. Image courtesy of Thomas De Wever/Getty Images

Engineered Stone

- Engineered stone is composed of 93% quartz particles. It is available in a larger range of colours, and has a nonporous surface that resists scratches. It is easy to maintain, without annual sealing required.
- Benefits : Is resistant to stain and acid, and easy to look after.
- Drawbacks : Expensive and can be difficult to source in Ireland.
- Engineered Quartz can provide the look of Marble without the maintenance.



Quartz worktop Image courtesy of [Enns Cabinetry](#)

Wood or Butcher Block

- Wooden worktops offer a beautiful warm look and are available in a wide range of colours and finishes. Hardwoods such as maple and oak are common in Irish kitchens, particularly farmhouses.
- Benefits :Easy to clean; smooth; can be sanded and resealed as needed.
- Drawbacks: They can be damaged by water and stains over time. Scratches must be oiled, or sealed.



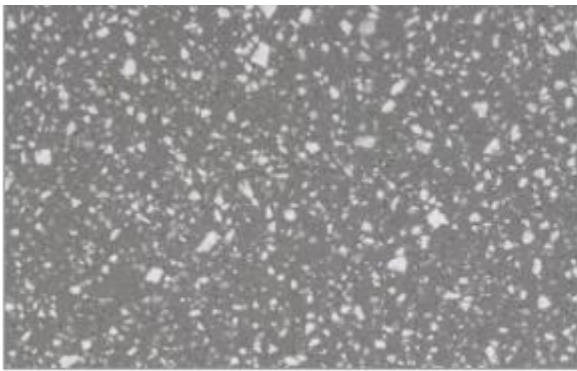
Butcher Block table Image Courtesy of [Ellece Designs](#)

Corian

- Corian is the original solid surface material manufactured by DuPont.
- Composed of acrylic resin and a mineral filler, Corian® is supplied in sheets and shapes, and offers a wide range of performance and design benefits.
- Solid and non-porous, Corian® is stain- and chip-resistant. As colours and patterns run through the entire thickness of the material, if a scratch occurs, it can easily be sanded away and the surface restored to its original appearance.
- Click the link to watch [Bending Solid Surface](#). 1.36Mins

Corian

- Corian can be routed, carved, sandblasted, moulded, thermoformed (bent when heat-treated), inlaid, or even printed to fulfil virtually any design vision.
- Available in around 100 colours, Corian complements many other materials, such as wood, metal and stone, enabling it to fit in with a range of design styles.



Terrazzo Grigio



Terrazzo Classico

- Click the link to see [LX Hausys](#) range of products.

Terrazzo

- Terrazzo is similar to recycled glass it is made by pouring a solid layer of concrete or epoxy resin, then embedding chips of marble, stone, glass or other materials into the surface.



Terrazzo worktop Image courtesy of [Cassie Bustamante](#)

Iolite Man Made Stone

- Iolite is manufactured from a combination of acrylic resin, natural mineral fillers and pigments resulting in its unique STONE-LIKE texture and feel.
- Iolite's 13mm thick surface and 45 mm edge allows you to fabricate a surface designs and edge details to your specific needs.



MINERVA SOLID SURFACE -
Travertine Haze

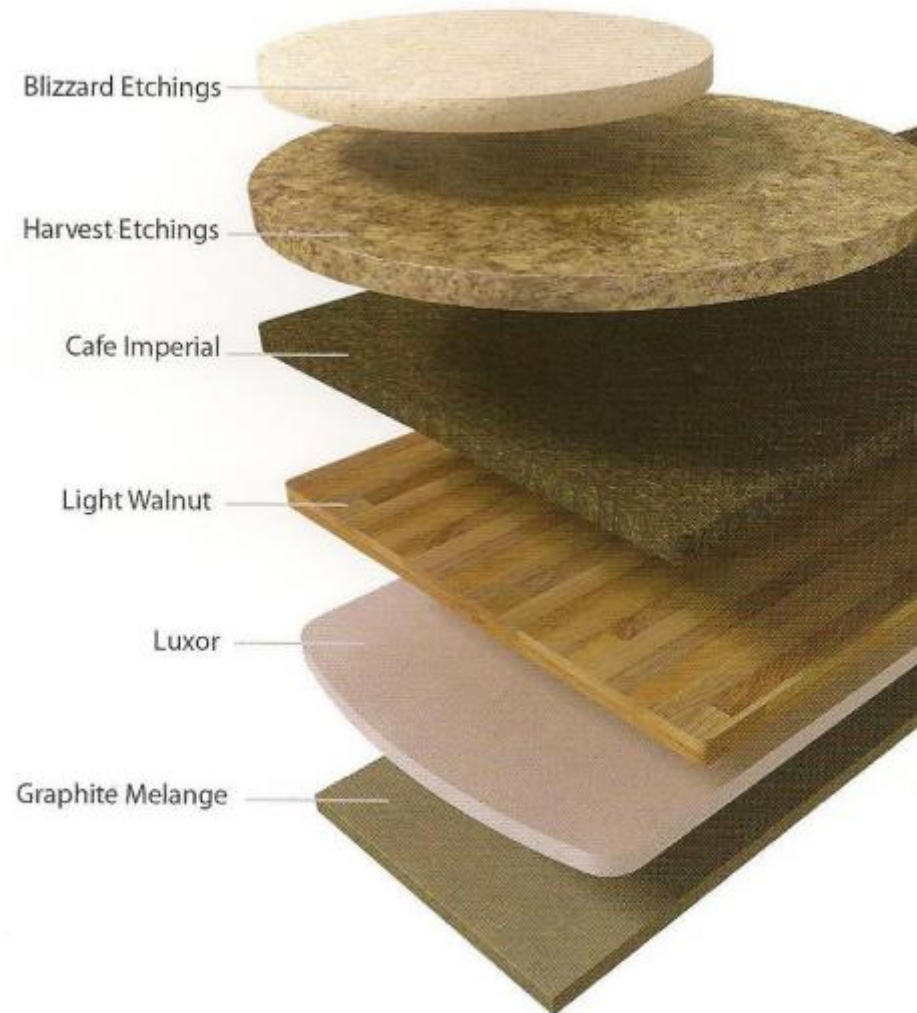


MINERVA SOLID SURFACE - Nimbus
Grey

- Click the link to see [Noyeks](#) range of products. [Minerva](#)

Curved Plastic Laminate

- There are a number of companies producing curved laminate tops to order.
- A PVC edging is bonded onto a square edge and a small radius is then applied.
- Leading edge worktops.
- Click the link to see [Formica](#) range of products.



Stainless Steel

- For a really contemporary and cool look for your kitchen, stainless steel is a good choice. The tops are heat resistant and durable and they benefit from the fact that you can have a seamless countertop.
- Benefits; They take hot pans; easy to clean.
- Drawbacks; Expensive; noisy; may dent; fabrication is expensive.



- Click the link to see [De Delvo](#) range of products.

Glass Worktops

- The use of glass as a worktop in Irish kitchens is quite new. Modern technology has ensured that glass in such a function works well. Glass worktops have heat resistant panels immersed at production point to ensure cracks or defacing heat stains do not occur.
- It is available in a wide range of pale rather than definite colours and is more suited to a modern kitchen style such as stainless steel. Quite expensive and needs regular attention to keep the glossy appearance from fading or being the victim of stained swirl marks.
- Click the link to see [Presti Glass](#) range of products.

Epoxy Resin Counter Tops

- Epoxy resin can be used to encase anything.
- Always be aware of your health and safety when using Epoxy and other types of resins especially when sanding. [HSE Information Sheet on Epoxy Resin](#).



Coins in Epoxy resin

Image Courtesy of [Digddigs.com](#)

- Liquid Glass available [here](#)
- Deep Pour Liquid Glass available [here](#)
- Various Epoxy Resins available [here](#)
- Click the [link](#) to see 45 Unique Kitchen Countertops of Different Materials