

Solid-Surface Counters

Solid-surface plastic, such as Corian, is tough, cast acrylic or polyester resin. It's nonporous, water- and heat-resistant--except for boiling hot pots), and so durable that most manufacturers offer a 10-year warranty on their products. Cost is about the same, installed, as premium tile. The main difference between brands is your choice of patterns.

The opalescent solid colors resemble marble or stone. The material is the same color from top to bottom and, when installed properly, seams are nearly invisible.

Plastics like these are easily repaired. Light sanding and polishing removes stains, burns and scratches. To fulfill the terms of the manufacturer's warranty, a certified fabricator must make and install your counters.