

The cost for material and labor to install a countertop averages around \$4,300 - \$9,800+ for a mid-sized kitchen. However, this is by no means a hard figure. The cost of your countertops will vary depending on the type of materials you choose, whether an existing countertop needs to be removed, whether you'll need to resize or reshape your current countertop space and your location in relation to where the countertop will be fabricated and shipped from. Then there's edging, grouting, staining and sealing and a host of additional cost considerations. We recommend that you speak with a countertop contractor about all the steps and costs involved in your countertop project. A professional will be able to give you the most accurate quote.

Here is a rundown of some of the most chosen countertop materials.

Natural Stone Countertops

These countertops are long-lasting and durable, and they also increase the value of your home. But, many types of natural stone, such as marble, are prone to cracking, chipping, staining and discoloration making them a poor choice for high-traffic areas in your home. If your counters get a lot of use, you might consider one of the stone counter materials below, the cost of which will vary depending on the size of the surface area, any special touches you might include and the activity the countertop will have to accommodate.

Granite Countertops

These have been amongst the most popular countertops over the last decade. Installation and materials for granite countertops cost between \$4,800 and \$9,500+ depending on surface, size of the kitchen and the grade of granite selected. The more common it is the less expensive it is and the rarer, the more expensive it is.

Generally, granite is cut into long slabs, negating the need for seams and grout. Then it is polished and sealed to protect against extreme heat, scratches and stains. This protection will last for several years with the right maintenance, cleaning, polishing and sealing. Granite comes in a variety of colors and textures, making it a versatile material that works in almost any kitchen. Keep in mind that it is porous meaning that liquids can seep into the surface of the product and cause staining and discoloration and there is always the risk of having natural flaws in the material. Because it is not a manufactured product this happens frequently. Try to view your slabs and pre-select them before fabrication.

Soapstone Countertops

The cost to install soapstone countertops averages between \$7,500 and \$12,000+. Soapstone's coloring is usually dark green to green/black, though you can sometimes find it in a lighter color or gray tones. The material comes in smaller slabs, so seams are visible in countertops longer than seven feet. Soapstone withstands heat and acidic materials well and it is also non-porous, which means it won't stain. The downside is that it is soft making it susceptible to scratches and deep indentations and the color choices are very limited.



Quartz Countertops

The cost for quartz countertops can range anywhere from \$6,500 to \$12,500+ for a medium sized kitchen. There are many different types of quartz products on the market as of 2020. Some are natural quartz (quartzite), which in most cases has a glassy appearance and resembles marble. This generally desirable appearance has made quartzite one of the most popular countertop materials. However, most quartzite is too porous to use as a countertop material in its raw form; without sealant treatment it would soak up liquids with ease. As such, the countertops are typically coated with polyurethanes, wax or acrylic. But it does present challenges for the buyer because the quartz must be regularly maintained. It is also more prone to chipping.

There are many other quartz products on the market that are in some cases up to 93% natural quartz and they are treated with pigments and polymer resins, poured into molds, pressed, cured and heated then gauged and polished. This creates a state-of-the-art manufactured quartz countertop resulting in a material that more durable, requires minimal maintenance and is arguably more beautiful than quartzite.

For more information and to visit our showroom to see our extensive lines of countertop materials, give us a call at 302-645-8500 to schedule an appointment.

Visit our website for more information at www.AtlanticKB.com