

## **Granite Worktops or Marble Worktops**

Marble worktops are less popular than granite worktops mainly because they are perceived to have worse performance in terms of wear and tear.

Granite is generally harder than marble and therefore has lower potential for breakage. However, once stonework, a marble or granite worktop, has been installed, breakage should not be an issue unless, of course, it is deliberate or undue pressure is applied to the worktop.

It is often perceived that marble worktops stain more easily and therefore require extra care than granite worktops. This is not always the case. Some types of granite are in fact more porous and therefore prone to staining than marble, in particular such popular granite choice for kitchen worktops like Kashmir White. Both granite and marble worktops need to be sealed with professional sealer like Lithofin MN Stainstop, and regular resealing is recommended.

Another perception is that granite is more scratch-proof than marble. This is not necessarily the case - both surfaces can be scratched if they are not taken care of. This is also true of most man-made materials used for kitchen worktops.

The single most popular type of marble used for kitchen worktops is Bianco Carrara. Other types of marble like Crema Marfil, Emperador Maroon are also used but are not quite as popular as Bianco Carrara. Bianco Carrara is a nice white marble with black and grey veins and is not very expensive, even compared to most types of granite.

Another natural stone that can be used for kitchen worktops, alongside granite and marble, is basalt. Limestone and travertine are not recommended for kitchen worktops unless they are intended to serve as purely decorative stonework or the usage is minimal. Quartz is the hardest of all materials used for kitchen worktops. It should be noted, however, that what is known as quartz is not in fact a natural material but man-made, based on granite and quartzites.

Another interesting material offered by Stoneville is called White Crystal which is a man-made material harder than granite, stain- and scratch-resistant, and low maintenance that can be cleaned with standard household cleaning products.

Below is a picture of a marble worktop made of Grey Marquino marble. Floor tiles are also Grey Marquino.



**Grey Marquino Marble Worktop and Floor, Stoneville UK Ltd**

Stoneville is a major UK stone company involved in supply and installation of natural stone tiles and bespoke stonework. Main natural products are marble, limestone, granite, onyx, technical stones. It now offers over of different types of natural stones.

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