

Porcelain Walls & Countertops – What Are They & How Do They Compare?

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When you hear “porcelain”, you probably think sink, toilet, tiles or a decorative vase, not countertops. But perhaps you have seen it trending online - porcelain walls and countertops are gaining popularity here in the US (Europeans have been using it for a much longer period). Let’s see what all the hype is about.

Porcelain is a ceramic clay pottery material made from a kaolinite-rich natural mixture of silica, mineral oxides and feldspar which is heated to over 2600 degrees Fahrenheit (1450 deg Celsius). The heat bakes the mixture into a material which is durable, heat resistant, non-porous, and stain resistant. That material can then be glazed with patterns to imitate any marble, quartzite or granite natural stone surface, or create a cement look OR keep things simple with a solid color. Porcelain works in traditional spaces as well as modern or contemporary.

Porcelain is relatively low-maintenance. In its slab form, it’s easy to clean and resists both stains and scratches which makes the slabs useful for indoor/outdoor kitchen countertops, vanities, backsplashes, and wall panels. When weighing the pros and cons of a porcelain countertop, the following should be taken into consideration:

Pros

- Stain Resistant
- Scratch Resistant
- Heat Resistant
- UV Light Resistant
- Variety of Patterns
- Lightweight
- Can Be Installed Over Existing Countertop

Cons

- Cracks or Breaks Easily
- Limited Fabricators
- Cost
- Limited Edge Profiles
- Patterns Have Less Depth

When it comes to cost, even though the initial cost of the porcelain material may be less than some quartz options, once you factor in fabrication and durability, quartz comes out the winner. Given its propensity to crack or break, the lifespan of porcelain will likely be shorter and require repair/replacement sooner than quartz slabs or a natural stone.