

Table 1

<b>BEST Marble Countertop Alternatives</b>					
<b>Material</b>	<b>MFG. / Color</b> (also know as)/ <b>Red = Favorites</b>	<b>Natural Stone?</b>	<b>Cost / sq. ft., installed</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<b>1. Granite*</b>	<b>Andromeda White, Beola Ghiandonata, Bianco Romano</b> (aka. Romano White), <b>Casa Blanca, Cirrus White, Cold Spring</b> (aka. White Springs, Bianco Primavera, Crema Springs), <b>Colonial White, Crema Antartida, Fantastic White, Galaxy White, Ice Blue (variation), Ilhabella, Juparana Delicatus, Kashmir White</b> (aka.,Cashmere White, Cashmire White, Bianco Kashmir White, Kashmir White), <b>Moon White</b> (aka. Emerald White, Kashmir Pearl, Morning Mist), <b>New Kashmir White</b> (aka. Serena White), <b>New River White</b> (aka. Glacier White,Thunder White), <b>Pearl White, River White</b> (aka.Valley White, White River), <b>Salinas White</b> (aka. Salinus), <b>Silver Cloud</b> (aka.Viscon White), <b>Snowfall, Supreme White, White Ice, White Tango, White Wave</b>	Y	\$30 - \$120	Very hard. Durable. Low maintenance.	Extreme movement due to heavy veining. Inconsistent spots/blotches. Large variations within same color. Lighter colored granites are more fragile. Slab weight requires strong cabinet bases. Must be sealed.
<b>2. Quartzite*</b>	<b>Bianca, Classic White, Classic White Lunar, Dolce de Vita, Madre Perla, Mother of Pearl, White Macaubas</b> (aka. Luce di Luna, Quartzite Bianco), <b>Sea Pearl, Shadow Storm, Super White</b> (aka. White America, White Fantasy, White Arabesque, Vermont White Granite (even though not a granite), <b>Symphony, Taj Mahal, White Crystal, White Princess, Wicked White</b>	Y	\$80 - \$140	Very resilient. Very dense. Stain-resistant. Very low maintenance.	Expensive. Staining and etching properties can vary by color and lot.* Can be difficult and expensive to fabricate. Must be sealed.
<b>3. Engineered Quartz</b>	<b>Cambria - Torquay, Daltile - Luminesce, Caesarstone - Misty Carrera, Frosty Carrina, London Gray, Dupont Zodiaq - Bianco Carrara, Coarse Carrara, Snowdrift, Hanstone - Tranquility, LG Viatera - Cirrus, Minuet, Rococo, Quantra - Carrara, Pental Quartz - Carrara, Lattice, Silestone - Lyra, Bianco River, Lagoon, Pulsar, Helix, Yukon Blanco, Stone Italiana - KSoul</b>	N	\$40 - \$90	Nonporous. Stain, chip and crack resistant. No sealing required. Virtually maintenance free. Seams are less noticeable than with natural stone.	Some look very manufactured, not like natural stone. Resin content is not heat tolerant. Resin filled selections can darken over time in exterior installations.
<b>4. Solid Surface</b>	<b>Corian - Rain Cloud, Seafoam, Formica - Gray Striato, LG Hi Macs - Breeze, Genova, Staron - Sanded Cream, Sanded White Pepper</b>	N	\$35 - \$100	Non-porous. Seamless. Scratches and mild burn marks are easily repaired. No sealing required. Virtually maintenance free.	Doesn't feel like natural stone. Can burn and scratch easily. A hot pan can cause cracking due to thermal shock.
<b>5. Laminate</b>	<b>Formica - Argento Romano 6697, Bianca Luna 3421(180fx), Calacatta Marble 3460(180fx), Carrara Bianco 6696, Carrara Pearl 9286(180fx), Crema Mascarello 3422(180fx), Wilsonart - Calcutta Marble 4925, Carrara Santorini 1855 (HD), Italian White Di Pesco 4954, White Carrara 4924</b>	N	\$15 - \$50	Inexpensive. Very low maintenance. Light weight.	Can burn and scratch easily. Glossy finishes show scratches. Doesn't feel like natural stone. Edges can show brown/gray profile. Difficult to repair. Undermount sinks generally not advised.
	<b>* Note:</b> Sometimes the same color is mistakenly categorized as granite by one supplier and as quartzite by another.They are two totally different types of stone. Granite is an igneous rock. Quartzite is metamorphic (like marble) and has more quartz in it than granite. It is slightly harder and more durable than granite. Some quartzite can etch due to small amounts of calcium carbonate within a slab.				
					Compiled by PROUD HOME Staging, LLC, 2014