

Why are countertops so expensive

Article Overview

Countertops are expensive due to the combined costs of raw materials, precision fabrication, skilled labor, logistics, and regional overhead.

Material Costs

Countertop materials, whether natural stone like granite and marble or engineered surfaces like quartz, are inherently costly. Natural stones are quarried from remote locations worldwide, often requiring specialized extraction and transportation, which adds significantly to the price. Quartz and other engineered surfaces involve complex manufacturing processes, combining crushed stone with resins and pigments, which are capital-intensive. Material alone typically accounts for only 30–40% of the final cost.

Fabrication and Labor

Transforming raw slabs into finished countertops requires precision fabrication using expensive CNC machinery, skilled templating, cutting, polishing, and edge profiling. Labor costs include both fabrication and installation, with highly trained professionals ensuring proper fit and finish. In high-cost regions like New York, labor rates can range from \$35 to \$65 per hour, and union labor may further increase costs. Installation crews, especially in dense urban areas, may cost \$600–\$1,200 for a standard kitchen.

Logistics and Overhead...



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