




# Countertops **CompacTop**<sup>®</sup>

## Advantages over Other Materials

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## 1. Countertop Description

The **Royal Spanish Academy** defines a countertop as a flat surface, made of a resistant material that forms a type of divider on top of the lower kitchen and bathroom cabinets; horizontal applications where a series of tasks take place on its surface that distinguish it from other types of worktops.

There are 7 basic types of countertops:

- **CompacTop®** Countertops
- Formica® Laminated Countertops
- Metal Countertops (Stainless Steel)
- Stone Countertops (Marble/Granite)
- Solid Wood Countertops
- "Solid Surface" Countertops
- "Synthetic Stone" (Resin bonded with Silica/Quartz)

We will compare them all to **CompacTop®** countertops.

## 2. Basic Concepts

We will summarize each of the basic countertop concepts that must be taken into account here:

1. Weight
2. Thicknesses
3. Designs
4. Versatility
5. Outstanding Colors
6. Textures or Finishes
7. Stain Resistance
8. Easy to Clean
9. Sanitary Features
10. Scratch Resistance
11. Ability to Repair Scratches
12. Moisture Resistance
13. Impact Resistance
14. Resistance to High Temperatures
15. Wear Resistance

16. Easy to Transport and Mount
17. Easy to Splice and Seam
18. Edge Versatility
19. Dust Produced during Cutting
20. Quality/Price Ratio

Below we will detail the advantages that a **CompacTop®** countertop has over countertops made of other materials.

### 2.1. Weight

A **CompacTop®** countertop stands out for being lightweight compared to all others. It weighs half or less what other countertops do, yet surprisingly this does not reduce its high mechanical resistance. On top of this, it has reduced thickness making it the best of all the countertops because:

- Its weight does not affect the cabinets that support it
- It can be moved if necessary
- It can be moved for mounting without great effort or risk
- It can be adapted and adjusted on site with any carpentry tools
- If a module is damaged, it can be changed out very easily

### 2.2. Thickness

A **CompacTop®** countertop is 12 mm thick, enabling it to be self-supporting and features solid edges that eliminate the need for unnecessary thickening.

### 2.3. Designs

The large number of designs available on a **CompacTop®** countertop doesn't just duplicate what other countertops offer, but makes it the market leader.

### 2.4. Versatility

Since this product is so versatile (bathroom and exterior façade applications) and comes in a variety of thicknesses with identical appearance and quality, it can also be placed vertically on kitchen walls, or used as vertical headers down to the floor. It can also be used to create tables and chairs from the same product, color and finish.

## 2.5. Outstanding Colors

No other countertop on the market can offer the vibrant colors, stability and durability of **CompacTop®** countertops. They are a whole new dimension in color and beauty that has never been seen before.

## 2.6. Textures or Finishes

Unlike other materials with just one finish or texture, **CompacTop®** countertops offer up to four different finishes, distinguishing them from the single-surface finishes that other products are only able to offer. This detail fashionably sets kitchens that have them apart.

## 2.7. Stain Resistance

**CompacTop®** countertop surfaces have the tightest pores and the highest surface chemical resistance to prevent them from being stained, or even worse, indelibly etched by commonly used kitchen chemicals, such as *Vinegar, Lemon, wine, solvents, detergents, hydroxides, bleach, coffee*, etc. that would leave permanent marks on other materials.

Special attention has been given to vinegar and lemon since stone, granite and synthetic countertops are etched by them and permanently stained.

## 2.8. Easy to Clean

Since **CompacTop®** countertops are virtually impossible to stain, cleaning them is very easy. In fact, just one wipe with some water, a non-abrasive detergent and a soft cloth, and they are completely clean, leaving nothing sticking to them and, even better, leaving them microbe and germ free. Other countertops require very specific items and disinfectants to clean them.

## 2.9. Antibacterial Properties

We all know organic materials, such as meat, fish, fruits, vegetables, etc. are handled on kitchen countertops. Therefore, special attention must be given to keeping these surfaces sanitary and clean, to ensure that germs and bacteria are never transferred from one type of food to another through incorrect countertop cleaning.

The **CompacTop®**, countertop surface does not transmit any of these risks because it has the most closed surface of any existing countertop, that is to say, its non-porous surface does not house, breed or transmit germs or bacteria.

This is a basic concept for countertops. Porous or fibrous surfaces, such as countertops made of other materials, have openings or pores favoring the growth of microbes, germs or bacteria, which we all know is dangerous. **CompactTop®** countertops prevent these organisms from growing on the surface. This is proven by the fact that they carry Official Certification issued by the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs allowing them to be in direct contact with foods.

They are guaranteed to be used as countertops in butcher shops, fish markets and fruit stands since with simple sanitary procedures, they will not allow any germs, microbes, bacteria or harmful organisms to flourish or be transmitted, even after repeated use.

**CompactTop®** carries the Official Certification that its surface can be in direct contact with food, without anything growing or developing on the surface.

#### 2.10. Scratch Resistance

The special surface of **CompactTop®** countertops distinguishes them from other countertops due to a greater resistance to scratches. **CompactTop®** countertops require more effort to be scratched than any other countertops on the market.

Scratches on a stone countertop are noticeable because a grazing light is visible on a normally shiny surface. On a **CompactTop®** countertop, the more matte and textured the surface, the less visible the scratch is.

#### 2.11. Ability to Repair Scratches

Its superior scratch resistance does not make it scratch-proof. If the **CompactTop®** countertop should be accidentally scratched, in many cases the surface can be repaired with products readily available on the market. These products imitate the **CompactTop®** color and adhere to that scratch, noticeably reducing it. This type of scratch cannot be repaired on stone countertops.

Some products to make repairs:

- Ziur Aqua
- Bustin Ziur 2
- Colorfil from Unika

### 2.12. Moisture Resistance

There is no moisture absorption on a CompacTop® countertop so no variations in its thickness will develop.

### 2.13. Impact Resistance

Accidents involving hard objects, such as a can or glass bottle, falling from the cabinet onto the countertop are quite common. In every case, except for CompacTop® countertops, this may leave a mark, or even worse, *crack or break it!* On CompacTop® countertops, the only accident is the object that was dropped, not the countertop.

Not only is it quite difficult for an impact to leave a mark on the surface, but it is impossible to crack it.

CompacTop® countertops can withstand the impact of a steel ball nearly the size of a billiard ball released from a hand lift all the way up without showing a mark.

*A quartz or granite countertop would inevitably break in this test.*

### 2.14. Resistance to High Temperatures

At one time or another we all place hot pots of stew or soup whose bottom is 100°C on the kitchen countertop. CompacTop® countertops not only can withstand the thermal shock of a hot pot of 100°C stew not only, but also 180°C of hot oil.

Care should be taken with coffeepots and pressure cookers with bottoms thicker than 4 mm that are recently removed from a direct or butane flame as they may affect the CompacTop® surface if placed immediately on it since their bottoms can easily reach temperatures of over 300°C.

A serious problem with quartz, synthetic resin or synthetic marble countertops is that after a certain period they crack or break around the range for a variety of reasons:

- Poorly finished hole that left micro-cracks or was poorly cut
- Poorly ventilated since it holds in heat

This problem doesn't appear in the CompacTop® Countertop.

### 2.15. Wear Resistance

CompacTop® resistance to abrasion is higher than that of any other type of countertop, as shown by the initial erosion value point in the abrasion test.

### 2.16. Easy to Transport and Mount

It is precisely the product's density that makes it the lightest of all countertops on the market. It weighs only 16 kg per square meter, compared to others that weigh up to twice what it does, making it easier to carry, take into apartment buildings or elevators, carry up the stairs, etc.

### 2.17. Easy to Splice and Seam

CompacTop® countertop is so extremely practical and versatile that splice and seam work can be carried out on site with normal carpentry tools. Linear or corner splices and seams are virtually invisible and even more so if they are blended with the repair products indicated in point 2.11.

It is the longest countertop on the market, stretching 3.6 meters (11.8 feet) in a single piece thereby eliminating seams. Stone countertops never exceed 2.2 meters (7.2 feet).

### 2.18. Edge Versatility

On this point, the CompacTop® countertop edge possesses a singular beauty with its smooth, black, glossy, water-tight edge that stands out between the countertop surface and the lower cabinets. It is not necessary to add any apron to conceal it and doing so would be more expensive.

### 2.19. Caution with Dust from Other Types of Countertops

The dust produced while cutting and handling of *other types of countertops*, especially those containing silica (called "Synthetic Stone") and methyl polymethacrylate in their composition (called "Solid Surfaces"), are *toxic* and *harmful* to your health. We recommend that before purchasing your countertop, you consult the Material Safety Data Sheet for the product that you are considering installing in your home.

### 2.20. Quality/Price Ratio

This last point answers itself. The quality of CompacTop® countertops, as described in the previous points, exceeds all other countertops currently on the market, and its price is among the most affordable.

### 3. Comparison Properties

| Type of Countertop                                | Weight kg/m <sup>2</sup> in its thickness | Thickness in mm  | No. of Designs | Versatility  |
|---|---|--|----------------|--|
| CompacTop®  | 16  | 12 mm solid product  | 125            | Kitchen - Bathroom - Cafeteria - Buffet  |
|   |   |  |                | Option to combine the product with a similar laminate on furniture, walls and doors. Customization possible. |
| Formica® Laminate Countertops                     | 32  | 1.0 mm Formica laminate on 38 mm waterproof pressed wood support | Assorted       | Kitchen - Bathroom - Cafeteria - Buffet  |
|   |   |  |                | Option to combine  |
| Stainless Steel                                   | 35  | 1-2 mm laminate  | 1              | Kitchen - Bathroom - Cafeteria - Buffet  |
|   |   |  |                | Option to combine  |
| Marble/Granite                                    | 56  | ≥40  | 20             | Kitchen - Bathroom - Cafeteria   |
|   |   |  |                | It is not very versatile to be combined  |
| Solid Wood  | 32  | ≥40  | 10             | Kitchen  |
|   |   |  |                | Not recommended for humid areas  |
| Solid Surface                                     | 21  | ≥12  | 30             | Kitchen - Cafeteria - Buffet   |
|   |   |  |                | It is not very versatile for use on furniture  |
| Synthetic Stone (Resin bonded with Silica/Quartz) | 40  | ≥12  | 40             | Kitchen - Bathroom   |
|   |   |  |                | It is not very versatile for use on furniture and very heavy for a buffet                                    |

| Types of Countertops                              | Outstanding Colors  | Textures or Finishes | Stain Resistance   | Easy to Clean  |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| CompacTop®  | Yes                 | 4                    | Impervious to all kitchen products                                     | Yes. Just with detergents.   |
| Formica® Laminate Countertops                     | Yes                 | Assorted             | Impervious to all kitchen products                                     | Same as CompacTop®   |
| Stainless Steel                                   | No                  | 1                    | Acidic products or fingerprints will stain requiring specific cleaning | Same as CompacTop® except acid stains  |
| Marble/Granite                                    | Not on solid colors | 1                    | Impervious to all kitchen products, except acids like lemon or vinegar | Yes, but with antimicrobial products, except acid stains. Impervious to kitchen products |
| Solid Wood  | No                  | 1                    | Impervious to all kitchen products                                     | Yes. But with antimicrobial products   |
| Solid Surface                                     | No                  | 1                    | Partially resistant to kitchen cleaning products                       | Same as CompacTop® except acid stains  |
| Synthetic Stone (Resin bonded with Silica/Quartz) | Not on solid colors | 1                    | Partially resistant to kitchen cleaning products                       | Yes, but with antimicrobial products, except acid stains. Impervious to kitchen products |

| Types of Countertops                              | Sanitary Features                                       | Scratch Resistance  | Scratches Can Be Repaired   | Humidity Resistance                                |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| CompacTop®  | Sanitary and antibacterial surface with normal cleaning | Unchanged by scratching with a sharp point weighing less than 3kg | Yes, by repairing with "Color Fill" adhesives that make the scratch disappear | Moisture resistant without swelling its whole mass |
| Formica® Laminate Countertops                     | Sanitary and antibacterial surface with normal cleaning | Unchanged by scratching with a sharp point weighing less than 3kg | Same as CompacTop®  | Swells if punctured. Porous support                |
| Stainless Steel                                   | Sanitary surface but with specific cleaning             | Scratched with a sharp point weighing over 1Kg                    | Irreparable   | Swells. Porous support                             |
| Marble/Granite                                    | Sanitary surface but with specific cleaning             | Scratched with a sharp point weighing over 1Kg                    | Irreparable   | Moisture resistant without swelling                |
| Solid Wood  | Sanitary surface but with specific cleaning             | Scratched with a sharp point weighing over 1Kg                    | Irreparable   | Swells. Porous support                             |
| Solid Surface                                     | Sanitary surface but with specific cleaning             | Scratched with a sharp point weighing over 1Kg                    | Can be repaired the with proper product                                       | Moisture resistant without swelling its whole mass |
| Synthetic Stone (Resin bonded with Silica/Quartz) | Sanitary surface but with specific cleaning             | Unchanged by scratching with a sharp point weighing less than 3kg | Not can be rapared  | Moisture resistant without swelling its whole mass |

| Types of Countertop                                      | Impact resistance  | Resistance to High Temperatures  | Wear Resistance   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>CompacTop®</b>  | No damage from a 0.32 kg steel ball dropped from 1.8 meters, equivalent to 10 kg at the moment of impact | Withstands thermal shock up to 180°C without permanent marks. Withstands the equivalent of placing a hot pot on its surface    | Starting point, over 150 surface sanding cycles with sand paper |
| <b>Formica® Laminate Countertops</b>                     | No damage from a 0.32 kg steel ball  | Same as CompacTop®   | Same as CompacTop®  |
| <b>Stainless Steel</b>                                   | Ball's impact left a permanent mark  | Same as CompacTop®   | Very low starting point, 10 cycles                              |
| <b>Marble/Granite</b>                                    | It is fragile. It can crack, making it unusable  | Same as CompacTop®   | Very low starting point, 10 cycles                              |
| <b>Solid Wood</b>  | Ball's impact left a permanent mark  | Same as CompacTop®   | Very low starting point, 10 cycles                              |
| <b>Solid Surface</b>                                     | It is fragile. It can crack, making it unusable  | Only withstands thermal shock up to 90°C without leaving a permanent mark. Will not withstand placing a hot pot on its surface | Very low starting point, 10 cycles                              |
| <b>Synthetic Stone (Resin bonded with Silica/Quartz)</b> | It can crack, making it unusable   | Only withstands thermal shock up to 90°C without leaving a permanent mark  | Very low starting point, 10 cycles                              |

| Types of Countertops                                     | Easy to Transport/Mount  | Easy to Splice and Seam   | Edge Versatility   |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>CompacTop®</b>  | Can be worked on site. Very lightweight. Only requires carpentry tools   | System similar to what is used on. It is the longest countertop on the market | Clean edges that require no additional work or special splices |
| <b>Formica® Laminate Countertops</b>                     | Same as CompacTop®   | Same as CompacTop®  | If not Postforming, requires attaching a groove                |
| <b>Stainless Steel</b>                                   | Requires special cutting tool  | Delicate operation that creates a "weak" moisture line and a visible seam     | Requires attachment of a groove                                |
| <b>Marble/Granite</b>                                    | Cannot be worked on site. Weighs 2.5 times as much as CompacTop®   | Just on top and visible seam  | Requires adding an edge  |
| <b>Solid Wood</b>  | Complicated + prep work  | Same as CompacTop®  | Requires adding an edge  |
| <b>Solid Surface</b>                                     | Cannot be worked on site. Is very delicate. Has problems with cracking in areas near heat  | Same as CompacTop®  | Requires adding an edge  |
| <b>Synthetic Stone (Resin bonded with Silica/Quartz)</b> | Cannot be worked on site. Requires special marble mason tools. Has problems with cracking in areas near heat. Weighs 2.5 times as much as CompacTop® | Same as Marble/Granite  | Requires adding an edge  |

| typical pH        |  |          |
|-------------------|--|----------|
| Hydrochloric Acid | 0,0  | ACID     |
| Lemon Juice       | 2,0  |          |
| Vinegar           | 2,4  |          |
| Coca-cola         | 2,5  |          |
| Orange Juice      | 3,6  |          |
| Wine              | 4,0  |          |
| Tomato            | 4,5  |          |
| Beer              | 4,5  |          |
| Tea               | 5,5  |          |
| Acid Rain         | 5,7  |          |
| Coffee            | 6,3  |          |
| Milk              | 6,6  |          |
| Water             | 7,0  |          |
| Baking Soda       | 8,5  | ALKALINE |
| Bath Gel          | 9,5  |          |
| Bath Soap         | 9,5  |          |
| Ammonia           | 11,0   |          |
| Lye               | 13,0   |          |
| Caustic Soda      | 14,0   |          |
| Red Text          | They damage countertops                        |          |
| Blue Text         | They damage all countertops except CompactTop® |          |

#### 4. Streamlined Measurements

CompactTop® Countertops come in the following sizes:

- Whole panel 3600 x 1400 mm
- Half panel 3600 x 690 mm

Note that it has the longest length on the market, which allows for the longest countertops on the market with no seams.

CompactTop® laminates also stand out for their ability to be placed on walls and doors as accessories in addition to the countertop so that the vertical coverings using the same product share the same characteristics and appearance as the horizontal countertop.