

What is Solid Surface?

Solid Surface products are manufactured with high performance resin systems such as acrylic and unsaturated polyester. They have very high filler content and do not have gel coats. These materials are used primarily in counter top and wall panel applications.

A design benefit of solid surface materials is their ability to be machined to like wood, though special equipment and fabrication procedures are required. They can be precisely cut and bonded to fit nearly any surface shape. Solid surface materials can also be routed for decorative edging which can be applied with specially formulated adhesives. Since the color goes clear through the product, scratches, chips and stains can be easily sanded out.

Solid surface materials are sold under a number of brand names including HiMacs, Formica Brand, Staron, Mystera, Avonite, CounterStone, and Dupont Corian. A growing number of small producers and fabricators are also offering solid surface materials. According to *Kitchen and Bath Business*, a leading industry trade magazine, solid surface materials were used on 12 percent of the 4.3 million kitchen construction jobs in 1996.