



**Inset stainless steel sinks and accessories by Franke**

**Brass sinks**

This is a limited range of individual sinks and inset bowls with drainers available in brass. Inevitably they tarnish and the manufacturers recommend 'cleaning on a daily basis with a water soluble cleaner'. This should deter most clients except for those with a fleet of servants.

## Plastic sinks

Plastic sinks are made of polypropylene or other polymers. They can stain and are not as heat resistant as other sink materials. They tend to be used in economy installations and carry only a limited guarantee.

## Solid surface sinks

These are sinks made of silica, recycled glass, quartz or other stone particles bound in a matrix of tough acrylic resins with various proprietary names generally ending in 'ite' as they come in granite-like colours ranging from nearly white in tone to nearly black.

They claim to be strong, durable, resistant to impact, scalding, staining, and are heat resistant to 180°C. The quality of individual makes may be judged by the guarantees which range from 10 to 20 years.

Despite claims of indestructibility, manufacturers advise never to use undiluted bleach on the surface.

## Ceramic sinks

Made of glazed fireclay, ceramic sinks are heavy and thick in profile. They have a hard, non-porous surface giving good resistance to detergents, abrasive acids, alkalis, hot and cold temperatures. The glaze has a shiny bleachable, hygienic appearance is generally white in colour, but it will chip if subject to heavy blows.

They are available in standard inset bowl and drainer patterns and also as so-called *Butler sinks* with deep rectangular single or double bowls and in traditional *Belfast* shapes.

Ceramic sinks can be set under solid material worktops, often with the deep front side exposed to view. These sinks are heavy and need substantial support.