

Marble worktops

Marble is NOT recommended as a practical surface for kitchen worktops.

It is far less hard wearing than granite and will be stained badly by olive oil, lemon juice and spices.

It is, however, eminently suitable for use in bedrooms and bathrooms.

Limestone worktops

Limestone has recently become popular for wall and floor tiling and can be used for kitchen worktops, although it is not as suitable as other stones because it may be etched by acids such as lime juice. For this reason it is imperative to select a limestone of low porosity and maximum density. This type of limestone tends to come from Portugal, Spain, Italy and Israel.

The choice of finish is *fully polished* which cannot be sealed as sealants tend to sit on the surface. Alternatively, the surface can be *honed* which can take a polyurethane-type sealant which can be renewed professionally after some years of use.

Wash with a neutral detergent to keep it clean.

Scouring powders and cream cleaners should be avoided.

maximum length: 2.4 m

maximum width: 1.2 m

thickness: 30 mm recommended
20 mm will suffice with 6 mm MDF substrate fixed to top of cabinets

weight: 81 kg/m² for 30 mm

54 kg/m² for 20 mm

Upstands at the back edge should be fixed to the wall with a silicone joint between upstand and work surface.

Source: Kirkstone Quarries Ltd

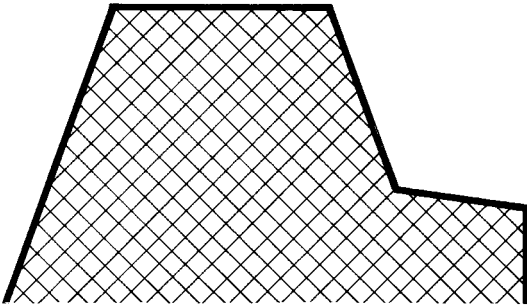
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Floor and wall finishes

Floor finishes for kitchens should be waterproof, hardwearing, non-slip when wet, easy to clean, acid- and alkali-proof and easy on the feet. Under traditional range cookers they should also be fireproof. They are better if they are pale in colour to reflect light, and slightly patterned to conceal grime.

Sheet materials have few joints so are easy to keep clean and are likely to be more waterproof – but tiles have the advantage of being easier to fit round awkward shapes and can be individually replaced if damaged.

In rooms which are not square, tiles laid on the diagonal disguise the fact that the walls are not parallel.



Tiles laid diagonally in a non-orthogonal location

It is preferable to use specialist flooring contractors who will advise on suitability of materials for the purpose, including details of any substrates, fixing, surface sealants or polishes. All flooring should be fixed and finished according to the manufacturer's instructions.