

Quartz vs. Quartzite – What’s The Difference?

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This one is pretty straightforward but there is a lot of confusion online. You search “quartzite” and get results for quartz. Let’s clear this up.

When you hear people talk about their **quartz** countertops, they are referring to a manufactured product, engineered using about 90% crushed quartz minerals, other crushed stone or recycled glass, pigments and a resin which binds the material together. Quartz was introduced to the US markets in the 1990’s and gained popularity quickly due to being maintenance-free. It is the most popular countertop material in the US right now, pushing granite back to second place. Quartz is non-porous, heat resistant, stain resistant and doesn’t require a sealant. It comes in extra large slabs to create seamless islands and kitchen designs. And with an ever-growing number of manufacturers, there are almost limitless options with regard to color and pattern.

On the other hand, **quartzite** is a metamorphic quarried stone that is formed within the earth and is 100% natural. When quartz-rich sandstone is subject to high temperature and pressure due to tectonic compression, the quartz forms a dense and hard rock which provides a luxurious look. Since they are natural and not manufactured, quartzites are selected individually by the slab, similar to granite or marble, since each piece will be unique and the veining will vary. Quartzite is more porous than quartz and will more likely absorb liquid spills and stains so it should be sealed after installation and again annually, as part of regular maintenance. There are many quartzite colors but the most popular continues to be Taj Mahal which originates in Brazil and has a beautiful balance of soothing ivory tones and layered movement.

In terms of pricing, quartz and granite tend to be similarly priced while quartzite like Taj Mahal is typically up to 1.5x more expensive than a similar (but not quite as luxurious) quartz pattern.

MSI Quartz Cashmere Taj



Natural Quartzite Taj Mahal

