

## Which Sink Material Is Right for You

When exploring types of kitchen sinks for your home, how it will be used will have an impact on the materials you will be able to choose from. If your family accumulates a lot of dishes, you'll need a deeper basin. If you maintain a busy lifestyle, you may not have time to take care of a special surface. In general, a kitchen sink should always be durable and able to withstand deep cleaning. However, it is also important to pick a sink made of a material that complements the rest of your kitchen style and fixtures. We'll talk more below about the different sink materials available.

### Stainless Steel Sinks



- The most popular kitchen sink material, stainless steel is available in a wide variety of styles, including drop-in, farmhouse and undermount.
- It is a common material for outdoor kitchen sinks because they're rust and damage resistant.
- It provides an excellent balance of cost, durability and ease of cleaning.
- Higher quality stainless steel sinks are made of 18 to 16 gauge to prevent dents and scratches. Gauge is a measurement of the thickness of stainless steel. The lower the number, the thicker the material.
- Look for vibration-damping foam insulation or pads on the underside of the bowls to deaden water drumming.
- Brushed satin finishes tend to hide water spots and scratches.

## Granite Quartz Composite Sinks



- Made of a mixture of 80 percent quartz and 20 percent resin to provide a sturdy, low-maintenance surface.
- Granite/quartz composite is scratch, stain and heat resistant; available in drop-in, farmhouse and undermount.
- Granite composite is a popular material for black kitchen sinks, but the material is available in a range of colors.
- Withstands hot cookware.

## Fireclay Sinks



- A hard-fired clay material, it's mainly used in farmhouse style sinks.
- Similar in appearance to cast iron. Has a smooth, glazed, non-porous surface.
- Extremely durable material. Fireclay resists chips, scratches and acid damage.
- Sold primarily as white kitchen sinks, multiple colors and textures are also available.

## Cast Iron Sinks



- This type of sink is made of cast iron and coated in porcelain enamel to provide a hard, durable surface.
- It has a smooth, glass-like finish that makes it easy to clean.
- Cast iron is guaranteed not to chip, crack or burn.
- Extremely heavy (upwards of 125 pounds). Requires two people to install. Not typically suited for wall-mount installation.

## Copper Sinks



- Highly durable metal that does not rust or tarnish; copper requires little maintenance.
- Surface takes on an aged patina over time.
- Each sink is individually handcrafted and unique.
- Copper's anti-microbial properties kill bacteria and viruses.