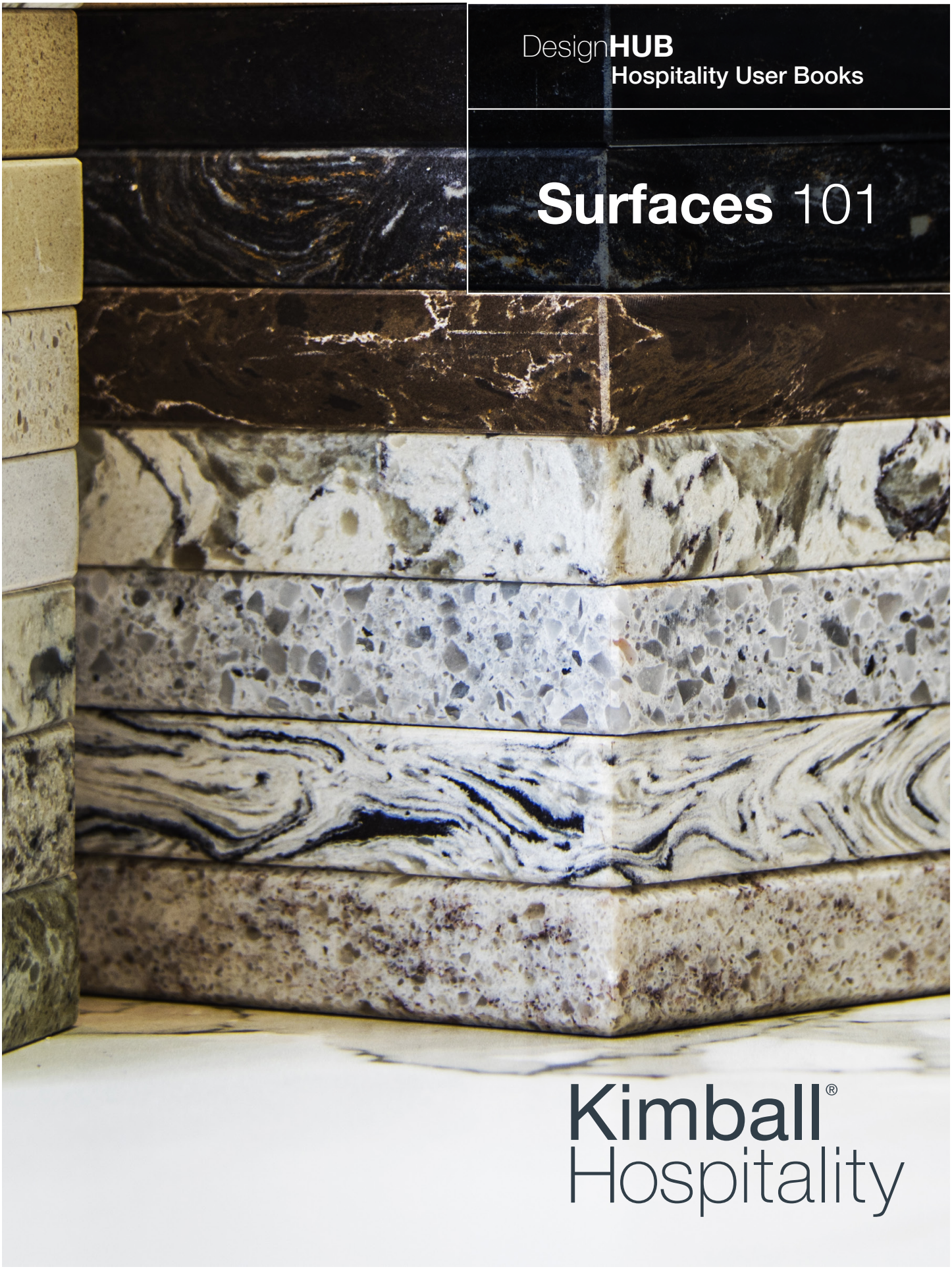
DesignHUB
Hospitality User Books

Surfaces 101



Kimball®
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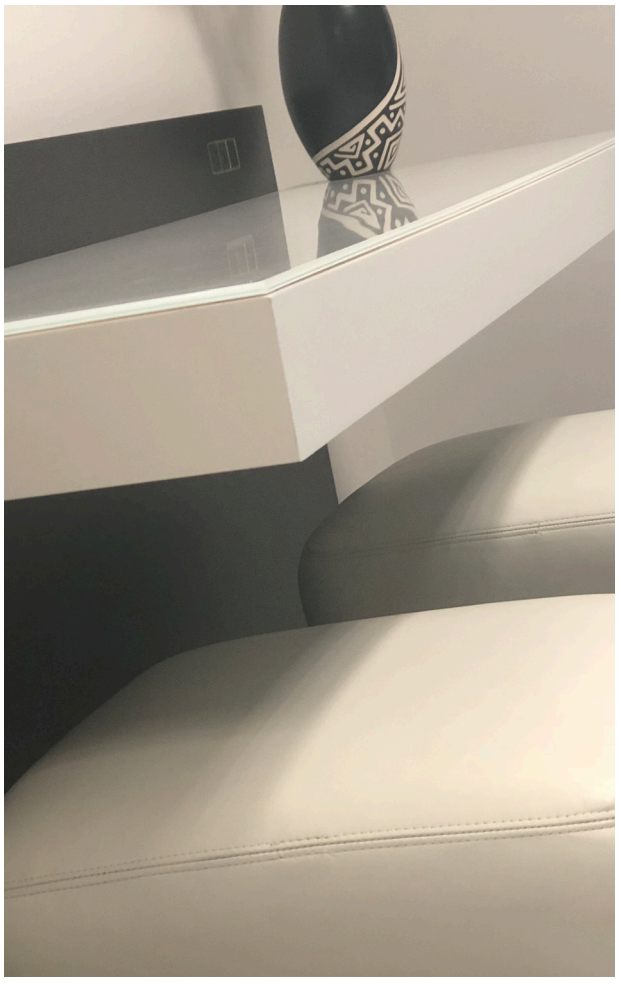
Surfaces 101



This document is to help understand the types of surfaces commonly used in the hospitality industry. The surface options listed in this document are ordered from the most to least expensive. Please note that this is a learning guide and should be used as such.

If you have any questions regarding a specific materials listed or have an alternative design you'd like to have quoted, please contact your Kimball Hospitality Sales Representative for more information.

Legend

$	**Product Cost**	More **$** = more expensive the material
★	**Product Durability**	More ★ = more durable the material

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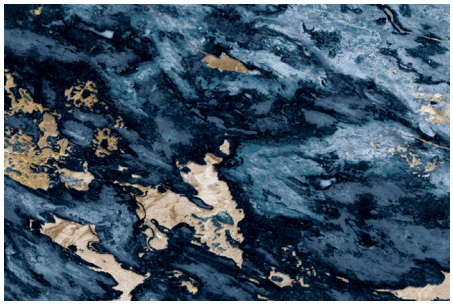
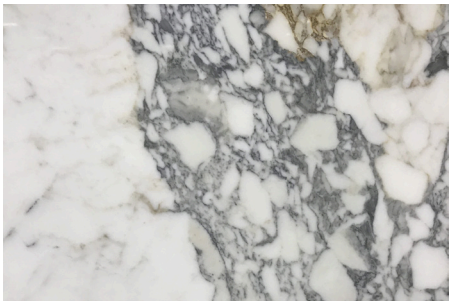
Marble Surfaces ★★★★☆☆ $$$$$$

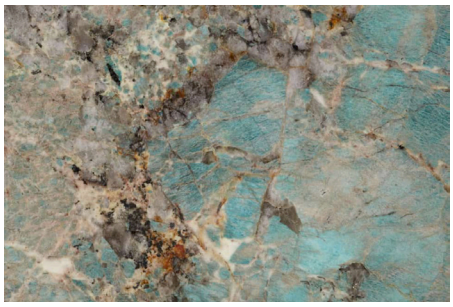
Marble remains in heavy demand for surfaces because of its elegant look. This stone comes in a array of color. Your choice of hues includes solid white, solid black and a range of colors in the rose, yellow, gray, green, white and black spectrums. No two slabs are alike, so you'll be assured of having a unique surface.





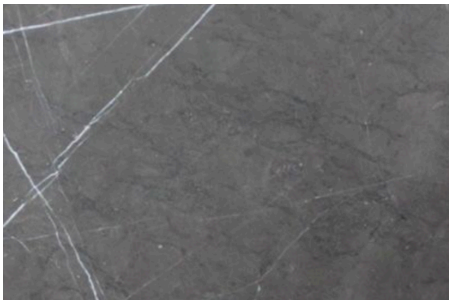
Granite Surfaces ★★★★★☆ $$$$$$

Granite is a very hard, natural substance and will have minor variations in color throughout. It is extremely resistant to stains and won't scratch or absorb liquids when it is properly sealed. In the bathroom, placing a hair tool on it that is still warm won't harm the surface.



Quartz Surfaces ★★★★★★ $$$$$$

Quartz surfaces, an engineered stone, is relatively popular because of its many good qualities: consistant coloring, attractive appearance and durability. A benefit of quartz is that it doesn't have some of the weaknesses of natural stone.



Metal Tops ★★☆☆☆☆ $$$$$$

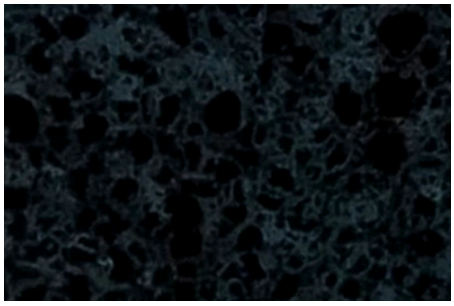
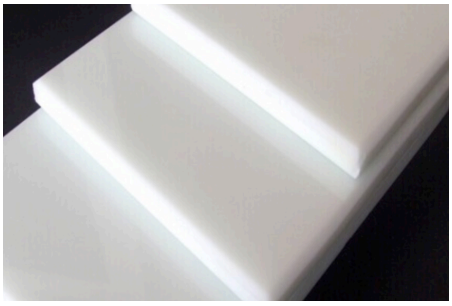
Metal surfaces are relatively thin sheets of metal that are formed and adhered to a wood or similar backing material. The metal wraps around the edges to give the countertop a finished look. In most cases, the corners are either welded or soldered. Depending on the material and fabricator, the corners are smoothed as desired so there is no appearance of a seam.

Acrylic Tops ★★☆☆☆☆ $$$$$$

Alternative to glass, acrylic is a versatile surface option that can come in a variety of different colors, looks and shapes.

Nano/Crystalized Glass ★★★★★★ $$$$$$

Much harder than ordinary glass, crystalized or nano crystalized glass is mainly made of silica and other natural materials. It comes with additional benefits of being scratch, heat and stain resistant, hard and durable, nonpourous and recycleable. It can be used for surfaces, walls, floors, windowsills and sinks.

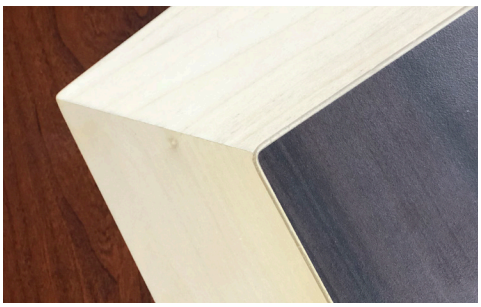
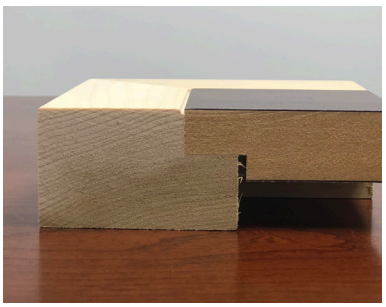
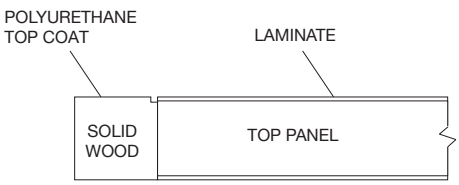



Thermofoil Wrapped Surfaces ★★★★★★ $$$$$$

3D laminate (thermofoil) surfaces are offered in a wide range of colors, patterns and finishes. These seamless surfaces are wear and water resistant, outperforming solid surfaces. Design new shapes using a wealth of edge profiles in a range of thicknesses.

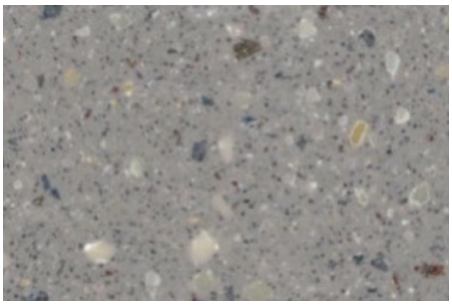
Wood Rim Laminate Top ★★★★★★ $$$$$$

Laminates are typically used in areas where it will get a lot of wear or be subject to liquids. To give the top a “real wood” appearance, the surface is rimmed with a small piece of solid wood and stained to match the laminate top.

Solid Surface Materials ★★★★★★ $$$$$$

Solid surface is a non-porous low-maintenance material used for surfaces. It can mimic the appearance of granite, marble, stone, and other naturally occurring materials, and can be joined nearly invisibly by a trained installer. Typically manufactured in sheet form for fabrication, solid surface can also be cast into a variety of shapes, including sinks, shower pans and bathtubs. This material can be heated and bent into three-dimensional shapes using a process called thermoforming. Color and design flexibility are key factors when choosing engineered composites over natural stone.

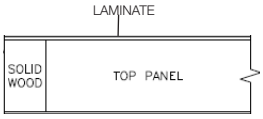


Wood Veneer Back Painted Glass ★★★★★★ $$$$$$

A mixed material look, back painted glass provides a pop of color to surfaces, while maintaining the wood veneer surface. Glass can be back painted in a variety of colors and some patterns.

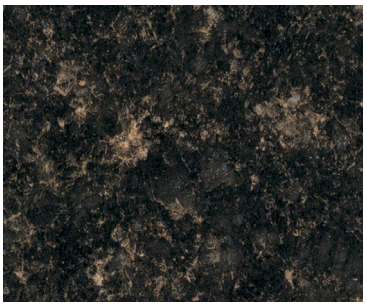
High-Pressure Laminate (HPL) with Solid Wood Core Band ★★★★★★ $$$$$$

The layer of laminate is adhered to the substrate under pressures of 70 to 100 bars and temperatures of 280° to 320° Fahrenheit using adhesives. Using a solid wood core band protects the core material from moisture damage and gives a finished edge to match the cabinet.



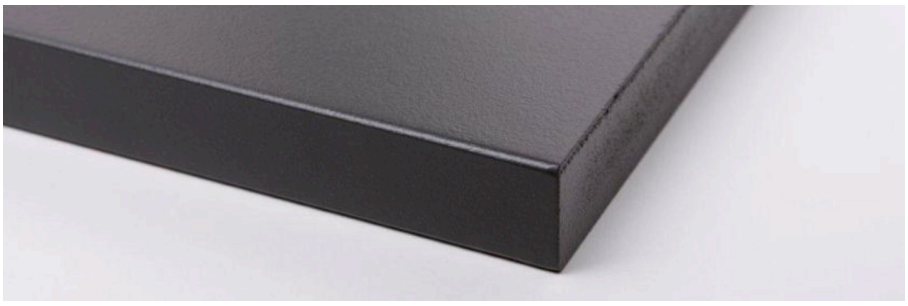
High-Pressure Laminate with PVC Edge (recommended) ★★★★★★ $$$$$$

The layer of laminate is adhered to the substrate under pressures of 70 to 100 bars and temperatures of 280° to 320° Fahrenheit using adhesives. Using a PVC edge provides a high impact protectant to the edge of the surface.



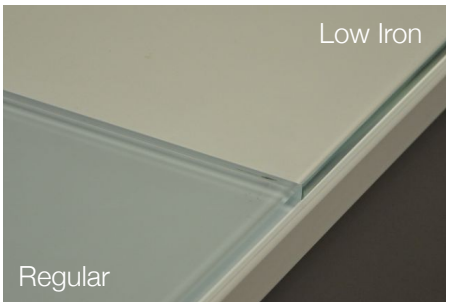
Powder-coated MDF ★★★★★★ $$$$$$

Powder coating is a method of wood finishing that uses electrostatic energy to create adhesion between a special powder and a medium density fiberboard (MDF) substrate.



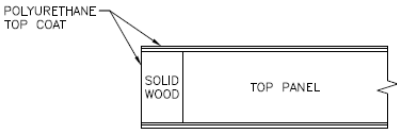
Wood Veneer with Low Iron or Regular Glass ★★★★★★ $$$$$$$

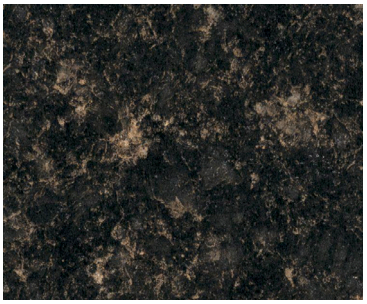
Maintain the look of the wood surface with a protective glass top. Low iron tops are less green than regular glass and maintain the true color of the wood showing through.



Wood Veneer Two-Coat Polyurethane Top ★★★★★★ $$$$$$$

When a true wood top is specified, it can be coated with two coats of polyurethane to protect the surface.



Low-Pressure Laminate (LPL) ★★★★★★ $$$$$$$

The layer of laminate is adhered to the substrate under pressures of 20 to 30 bars at temperatures of 335° to 375° Fahrenheit with no adhesives. As far as the advantages of LPL, most would say it is in the price. The price is usually less expensive than high pressure laminate. The only reason for this difference in price is that it does not cost as much to manufacture. Both are fire retardant and include antibacterial properties.