



# BAPTISTA TILE & STONE GALLERY

## *Quartz Slab Description & Disclaimers*

**Considering quartz for your slab project? Here are some things to help you decide which material is right for you:**

Quartz is a manmade engineered stone product which is now one of the countertop industry's leading products. Its strength and durability, along with a range of color options gives clients a much wider selection to choose from.

Here is some information to familiarize our clients with quartz to avoid future issues and better determine which material will suit them best:

Most quartz products are made of crushed 93% natural quartz mineral (typically the clear or white formations), 3.5% resin, 3.5% color dye. Percentages are based on weight, not mass, and may differ between manufacturers or even different lines from the same manufacturer.

**Perfection?** Quartz is not perfect; no material is.

**Resistant, not Proof.** Quartz is stain, scratch, and heat *resistant*. It *can* stain, etch, burn, discolor, scratch, chip, and/ or crack, all from normal daily use if not handled/ used properly.

**Imperfections & Variances.** Quartz can have imperfections that are deemed within industry standards by the manufacturer. For example: spots or dots throughout the slab, or in one particular area; background color variation between slabs of the same dye lot, or in some cases, from one end of the slab to the other. There can also be imperfections inside the material that can turn into a problem during the fabrication process or after installation. For example: an air pocket inside the material can cause a crack during cutting and/ or allow the material to crack after installation.

**Inspection.** BTSG performs inspections of all slabs prior to fabrication and will alert the client of any red flags.

**Finish Altering.** Altering the finish of quartz will automatically void the manufacturer warranty. Therefore, BTSG will not alter the finish of quartz material.

**Edging.** The sharper the edge of a quartz product, the more likely it is to chip. It is recommended that the edge have a radius no less than 1/8”.

**Overhangs.** The maximum unsupported overhang for a standard 3cm (1-1/4”) quartz material is 14” so long as the counter has two parts supported for every one part unsupported. For example, a counter with 24” supported can have a 12” overhang. Support brackets are often recommended for overhangs of 12” and up.

**Planing.** BTSG is in the process of upgrading our slab fabrication equipment. Beginning in January of 2022, we will no longer offer planing of quartz material.

**Inside Corners.** Quartz manufacturers require a minimum inside corner radius of 3/8”. This includes turns on a countertop, sink cut outs, stove/ cooktop cut outs, outlet cut outs, notches, etc. Should an inside corner require a 90-degree angle, a seam is required so that the slab has a breaking point at the seam rather than cracking at the corner.

**Heat.** Do not place hot items from the oven or stove directly onto your quartz countertops. Countertop appliances that omit heat such as air fryers, crock pots, toasters, etc. should not be left directly on quartz during usage. A trivet should be used.

**Fireplaces.** Quartz is not recommended for any type of fireplace application. BTSG will not install quartz in these applications.

**Outdoor Applications.** While a small handful of “outdoor quartz” materials are available on the market, outdoor quartz applications are not recommended in Central Oregon.

**Cutting and Dragging.** Do not cut items directly on quartz. You will damage both your knives and your slab. Always use a cutting board. Do not drag heavy or sharp items across the quartz. It could scratch or leave marks.

**Sealing.** Most quartz products do not require sealing. In rare cases, the manufacturers may require the product to be sealed. Your designer will advise of this prior to purchasing.

**Liquids.** Do not leave liquids on quartz as surface stains may occur. In some cases, they can cause a reaction to the quartz resulting in a discoloration in the affected area.

**Settling.** Quartz material can crack from settling of the house foundation, floor joists, or cabinets.

**Weight.** Quartz can crack if too much weight is applied to the surface such as standing on the countertops, etc.

**Expansion and Contraction.** Quartz expands and contracts in size during temperature changes. You will most often see evidence of this in backsplashes, panels, appliances, etc.

**Damage/ Warranties.** Most quartz brands offer a manufacturer warranty. Warranties are applied on a situational basis and may only cover the cost of materials only associated with repairing/ replacing a project.

See our Care & Maintenance section for additional information.