

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

## Q4

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 23 Wednesday, January 16, 2013

The Real Estate Year in Review

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## Counter Intelligence: Kitchen Surface Choices Abound

By Cathy Dausman



Moraga resident Suzanne Bare chose black "Galaxy" granite to emphasize her black and white kitchen remodel. "I love how the light reflects," she said.

Photo Cathy Dausman

**K**itchen countertops may have disappeared under decorations and piles of dishes as families gathered to celebrate the holidays, but wiping the crumbs away and scrubbing the surfaces clean may have left you pining for a newer surface.

Take your pick!

Durability, heat-resistance, crack resistance, cost, looks and availability all figure into choosing a surface with which to clad your countertops. Original kitchen counters in older Lamorinda houses were likely made of laminate or tile. An inexpensive material, laminate has such a low heat resistance that even a hot beverage could discolor or crack the surface.

Laminate is still available today in ready-made lengths at home improvement stores. Orindan Robin Bradley's kitchen is "vintage 1958," and still has the eight-inch white tiles to prove it. She says it still looks pretty good. "It's basic, durable, and you can scrub it," Bradley says. The downfall with a tile surface is the grout, which over time becomes stained or deteriorates.

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