

Fancy a dash of colour as well as peace of mind? The coating on these aluminium splashback panels has been formulated to repel the growth of bacteria and mould. Water and heatproof, they can safely be fitted behind the hob, too. Olive Green from the Esperia's collection, from \$109 per panel. **Avuscar**



Heavy duty surfaces

The worktop is the hub of any kitchen – a place to prepare food, perch for a quick coffee, or for family to gather round after school or at weekends. In short, it must cope with endless wear and tear so needs to be especially hard-wearing, scratchproof and quick and simple to wipe down when needed. Things are often not much different in a busy family bathroom. Not every material will withstand such a round of use, so it pays to choose wisely. Many natural surfaces – such as some marble, granite and timber – will need sealing to prevent bacteria and moisture seeping into the material, while other options with low or zero porosity keep germs on the surface so they can simply be wiped away. Manmade options such as engineered quartz, stainless steel or composite stone vary in durability and heat resistance but score high when it comes to hygiene. >



left Thanks to technological advances, porcelain stoneware tiles have come a long way. Digital printing now replicates subtle tile-to-tile variations, creating a natural look with all the easy-clean benefits of ceramic. This is the Jurassic Bianco design from Stone and Ceramic Warehouse. A 120 x 120cm size, measuring 6mm thick, is priced \$180 per sq m.



left Durable and practical, Stron's venette surfaces are made from natural minerals and acrylic polymers, offering a non-porous, scratch and heat resistant material. Shown is the Terrazzo Venette, priced \$350 per sq m. Stron.

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