Artificial Stone vs. Solid Surface

Artificial Stone material:
is made of a combination of crushed limestones (or marble powder) and acrylic resins.
The surface is sealed with a gel-coat. It is stain-resistant but requires the gel-coat to retain this property.
Some factories have developed a special high-polyester resin to improve hardness and gloss to reduce water-absorption. It does not have a very high heat resistance and can scorch.
In case of scratches it cannot be easily repaired.
Artificial stone material is far less expensive than Solid Surface materials.

Solid Surfaces material:
is an advanced composite material made of 2/3 of Aluminum Triydrate (ATH) and 1/3 polymer resins, pigments and hardeners.
Aluminum Trihydrate (ATH) is a powdery substance derived from Bauxite mineral, odorless, with the following properties:
Flamme retardant,
Non-Toxic , Non-cargyrogenic,
Halogen free,
Chemically inert,
Low abrasiveness,
Acid resistant.
The material contains thermal characteristic which provide translucency and whiteness.
No protective sealant is required on solid surface material. The materials used are NON-POROUS - 100% absorption free.
Thanks to the ATH main component that is flame-retardant, it is fire-proof material.
Most damages including scratches, sever impact, heat or chemical damages can usually be repaired on site to restore the original, smooth and hygienic solid surface integrity.
Also, solid surfaces have the best performance with keeping any seam in the finished product invisible making the finished products appear seamless.

There are also different quality levels in the solid surface materials:
it mainly depends on the pureness of the polymer that is used in the composition. If the polymer used is of poor quality, it can be the cause of a color change and yellowing over time. It is therefor important to know the performance of the material under the UV exposure. The test result for the Ideavit solid surface is grade 5. Grade 5 means that after an exposure of 100 & 200 hours to UV light, there is not any alteration to the color of the tested samples compared to the original material.

IDEAVIT
Solid Surface

Technical Specifications :
Ideavit Solid Surface is a composite material made of 68% of ATH (Aluminum Trihydrate, natural mineral powders derived from bauxite) as main component, 30 % of PMMA (polymethyl Metacrylate) polymer/polyester resins, the remainder 2% are pigments, hardeners and catalysts.
It is an inert and non-toxic material.

Processing techniques :
Cast Molding :
The composite material is injected into molds (different shapes and sizes) where it catalyzes and solidifies. The finished product is one solid piece without any seam.
By Fabrication :
The material is cut and the pieces are joined together and glued.
When welding or gluing the same composite material is always used, therefore the finished product does not show any seam and appears to be a solid piece.
The Finishing is done using a special sandpaper until a smooth, velvety, matt surface, very pleasant to the touch is reached.

Technical characteristics and Main benefits :
- Homogeneous and compact
- Impact resistant and durable
- Non-Porous (100% non- absorbing)
- High degree of UV resistance (No discoloration)
- Flame retardant
- Hygienic (the absence of perceptive joints avoid the deposit of bacteria and dirt)
- Easy to clean and to maintain
- Restorable (any damage or scratches can be repaired on spot with abrasive sponge)
- Unlimited architecture applications

Cleaning and Maintenance :
Ideavit matt Solid Surface products require minimal maintenance.
For everyday cleaning, simple wipe with a soft wet pad to remove any surface dirt.
For tougher marks it is sufficient to clean the surface with gel or abrasive detergent
(widely available in the market) then to rinse well .
Occasionally one may require a light abrasive sponge (i.e. Scotch-Brite) to erase scratches.
It is recommended not to use petroleum-based products when cleaning (i.e. acetone, paint thinner or other solvents) as they may damage the Solid Surface.
Note : personal hygiene products and cosmetics will not damage the surface.

Use :
Thanks to its technical characteristics, it is a highly innovative and versatile material, ideal for use in both residential and commercial applications.