

BE INFORMED

Know Your Granite Countertop

Congratulations on choosing granite for your new countertops. Before you finalize your decision, please read this document to become more familiar with the natural characteristics of this product.

Choose granite for your countertops if you love the beauty of natural variation within and between counter pieces and are willing to invest some time and energy maintaining its good looks.

Since granite is a natural product, with inherent beautiful natural variety, the characteristics of a particular sample will not be uniformly present in other samples of the same color. A sample serves only to indicate, in a general way, the color, markings, and texture (fissures and pits) usually found in a block of granite. The samples you view may have been quarried at different times and may come from different areas of the quarry than the slabs used in your home; therefore, the sample will not match and may actually be quite different from the product installed in your home.

Since granite is a natural product, characteristics such as color, pattern, texture and veining will vary from kitchen to kitchen. This variety is part of what makes granite so desirable and attractive. Many colors have significant variety within a kitchen, such that individual pieces within a kitchen will vary in shading, coloring and or pattern from each other. The countertops or areas of the countertops will not be replaced due to these variations within or between the pieces of your installation. If granite tile is used on the backsplash, fireplace or as inserts in the floor or backsplash, it will not match the slab countertops.

Because granite is natural and is quarried from the ground, it contains inherent characteristics:

- Hairline cracks (caused during the quarrying process and are visible)
- Fissures (a natural cleft in the formation which are mistaken for a crack)
- Pits (small crystals that loosen and may fall out during polishing leaving small voids in the surface)
- Inclusions (areas of stone which do not look like the rest of the stone and may vary in size from small to countertop size).
- Mineral deposits (minerals like feldspar, mica, quartz, amphibole, and iron are present in granite and may manifest visibly as spots and streaks of a variety of color, adding beauty and uniqueness to the piece)
- Some colors have a “grain” or pattern direction. This grain or pattern will not match at seams, separate counters, or at height changes. Some grains or patterns will change color or appearance, due to different light reflection, when the grain or pattern direction changes.

Any movement of cabinets, walls or general settling of your home could cause these hairline cracks, fissures or pits to open or become noticeable. The Marble Institute of America deems it appropriate to repair like items during the fabrication and installation process.

Granite is quarried from the ground. It is impossible to do seamless or seemingly seamless installations of countertops. Granite countertop seams can be seen and felt. Granite slabs are not always perfectly flat causing some seams to be uneven from front to back. Granite slabs frequently vary in thickness from one end to another +/- 1/8”. When this occurs, the thicker slab will be feathered to match the thinner slab at the edge seam location.

Because granite is a quarried material, slabs will vary in size, usually measuring 113” x 68” or larger. However, due to the inconsistencies of quarried natural stone, these dimensions cannot be guaranteed. Granite countertops in your home will almost certainly have a seam if they measure larger than 113 x 68”, and may have a seam if they are 113 x 68” or smaller. When necessary, seams will be present in your countertops and may be located in the cook-top cutouts. Seam locations will vary from house to house and homes of the same model may not have seams in the same location. Seam locations will not be reviewed or guaranteed. Overhangs in excess of 12” require corbels, posts or other support installed by the builder.

Being porous, traditional unsealed granite countertops may absorb many types of liquids and be prone to staining. To resist stains, all granite countertops are protected with sealer.

The polished finish of granite is very durable and natural, no topical coating is applied. However, granite can be scratched with other household items. The finish may be dulled with the application of unapproved cleaning agents and general wear. Absolutely do not use abrasive cleaners on granite surfaces and avoid other cleaners not specific for granite. Test any new cleaner on a small out-of-the-way area before using on the countertop.