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## Granite Surfaces FaQ's

### What is Granite?

Granite is a coarse grained, crystalline igneous rock primarily composed of feldspar and quartz. It forms from slowly cooling magma that is subjected to extreme pressures deep beneath the earth's surface.

### Why choose granite counter tops over synthetic materials?

Granite has become today's countertop of choice for architects, cabinetmakers, kitchen designers and contractors. A granite counter top is virtually impervious to abrasions, stains and extreme heat. Additionally, the inherent qualities of granite –its color, patterns and shades- compliment any décor.

### Does granite need to be sealed to avoid staining?

Yes. It is our policy to seal every stone surface we install and we recommend the application of a penetrating sealer annually to help protect against any oils or water that may have sat on the surface of the stone for any length of time.

### My granite kitchen counter top doesn't look exactly like my sample. Why?

Granite is an organic substance and just as no two people are exactly alike, no two samples of granite will be either. The composition of minerals and the deposit it was quarried from all play a part in the appearance of granite.

### Is granite really scratch resistant?

Scratch resistant, yes; scratch proof, no. Granite is one of the hardest materials on earth, ranking close to that of quartz and diamonds. You will not scratch the countertop using an ordinary kitchen knife; however, you will ruin the knife. Generally it is not advisable to use granite as a cutting board. There are some specialty knives on the market, which can scratch granite as well. They are made with diamond chip or tungsten blades.

### Is it true granite won't chip, crack or ding?

No, high impact blows can harm granite. Because of its crystalline structure, it can chip if subjected to sharp hard objects. Granite sometimes has natural fissures as well, which may look like cracks, but are not structural defects and are a naturally occurring result of the immense heat and pressure that formed the granite. Walking on a counter or stepping on a counter to change a light bulb may cause the top to crack.

### Is it hard to care for a granite countertop?

Granite can be cleaned using warm, sudsy water with a mild detergent such as a grease cutting dish detergent, laundry detergent, or a solution of borax and water. Thoroughly rinse and buff dry. See the document *Granite Care and Maintenance* for further information.

### Are all granite kitchen countertops a high gloss finish?

No, there are several different finishes you can order; the highly polished finished is just the most popular. There is a process called "honing" that gives the stone a more matte finish yet retains its smooth feel.

### What is the difference between a drop-in sink and an undermount sink?

A drop-in sink sits on top of the cutout in your granite counter, while an undermount sink sits beneath the cutout. There is generally an extra polishing charge required in preparing a granite countertop for an undermount sink.

### I've heard of "high movement" stone. What is it?

Sometimes called "grain in the stone", "movement" is veins that swirl and change irregularly in granite due to the massive forces at work on it beneath the surface of the earth during the eons it took to form. "Movement" is also affected by trace amounts of other minerals such as hornblende, magnetite, hematite, pyrite, zircon, garnet and corundum. Many people find this flow of blending colors to be the most attractive and compelling quality about granite.

What can we do for you today?

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