

Things to Know / NATURAL STONE

ABOUT

“Natural Stone is a classic and timeless choice for countertops and does not require a lot of special care. Natural Stone offers a special and one of a kind beauty that is hard to match in a man-made world. There will always be natural imperfections/ characteristics that occur in every stone. These characteristics can be more or less noticeable depending on the position (vertical or horizontal) of the stone and the type of lighting present.*”

*According to Natural Stone Institute.

SURFACES

Granite
Limestone
Travertine
Semi-Precious
Onyx

FINISHES

- **POLISHED | HI-GLOSS | SEMI-GLOSS**
A finish with a high shine.
- **HONED | MATTE**
A finish with little or no shine.
- **LEATHER | CONCRETE | SUEDE | VELVET**
A textured finish with little or no shine.
- **SPECIALTY FINISH**
A unique finish with various texture & shine.

CARE

For day-to-day cleaning, clean surfaces with a soft cloth using a mild liquid soap and warm water or a Natural Stone cleaner to remove most residues. For stubborn stains, use a soft nonabrasive bristled brush and scrub lightly. To remove soap scum, use a non- acidic soap scum remover. Rinse and towel dry the surface to prevent spotting. To prevent staining, spills should be cleaned as soon as possible.

Non-polished materials and darker colors require more frequent cleaning as they show dirt, dust, and marks easier than lighter color patterns. Use hot pads, trivets, cutting boards, placemats, and coasters to protect your surface from discoloration, scratches, and staining. Heat generating appliances must be placed on a trivet or hot pad.

THE WATER TEST

The water test is a quick, simple way to check your granite countertop seal. All you need to do is pour a small amount of water (about 3” in diameter) onto various sections of the counter and wait for a reaction. You can tell if the water has been absorbed into

stone because the granite will darken. The water should sit for 30 minutes when performing the test, but you may notice the granite darkening more quickly if your seal has worn down. Most natural stones need to be re-sealed every 1-2 years.

SEAMS

Seams will be filled with a color-matching adhesive for a nearly seamless look; however, they will be visible and will be felt. Seams will be more apparent on materials with a more dynamic movement or pattern. All seam location wants, and needs are considered, but the final decision is at the discretion of the fabricator. Seam placements will be determined based on slab/sheet size, layout, installation requirements, and safety.



GRANITE
SURFACES OF TEXAS

— by NextDoor Home Services —

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BENEFITS

- **SCRATCH RESISTANT**
Won't scratch under normal every-day use.
- **BACTERIA RESISTANT**
If sealed properly or non-porous it does not harbor bacteria.
- **STAIN RESISTANT**
If sealed properly or non-porous stains are unlikely to penetrate the surface.
- **EXTERIOR APPLICATION**
Durable enough to withstand outdoor elements.
- **HEAT RESISTANT**
Withstands moderate temperatures.
- **NATURAL BEAUTY**
One-of-a-kind with unique colors, patterns, and textures.

SUPPORT

The maximum unsupported overhang for a 3cm Natural Stone product is 10" and 6" for a 2cm product; if 2/3 of the countertop is supported by a solid affixed structure (i.e. cabinets, walls, etc.). Additional support or brackets are required in other situations for safety concerns. Bracket supports should be placed 6" from each end, spaced up to 30" apart, and 3" – 6" from edge.

CHARACTERISTICS

- **SHADE VARIATION**
While more apparent in stones with heavy veining and movement, shade variation occurs in all-natural stones and is more noticeable at seams.
- **FISSURES**
A naturally occurring small hairline crack, fissures are "an extensive crack, break, or fracture in the rock, which may contain mineral bearing material. *"
**According to The American Geological Institute.*
- **CRACKS**
During the stresses of handling, fabrication, transportation, and installation, cracks may occur. It is common practice to repair cracks, and in many cases the repaired area is as strong or stronger than the surrounding area due to the strength of the adhesive bond.
- **CHIPS**
A small repairable imperfection in Natural Stone due to severe impact or fabrication.
- **PITS/PORES**
Small pin hole like variations found in all-Natural Stone's finishes, pits/pores are a common characteristic, and do not make the material less durable or otherwise inferior.

