

M R STONE LLC.

Granite and Marble Fabrication

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Granite Information

Most granite used for countertops is polished to a high-gloss finish giving it a mirror-like appearance. On closer inspection however, many granites have certain natural characteristics such as “pitting”, “fissures” or “dull spots” that may at first cause some concern. It is important to understand the geological reasons for these characteristics to fully appreciate the beauty of stone.

A characteristic referred to as “pitting” is normally due to the fact that granite is a natural product that has a crystalline structure, sometimes resulting in small spaces between the varying mineral crystals. In some cases, certain tiny crystals may also be removed during the polishing process, causing the pits to become more visible. Various steps are taken during the finishing process to reduce the visibility of these pits, but they cannot be totally avoided in all granite types. Pitting will not become worse with regular use or with the passage of time.

Many types of granite have small “fissures” or hairline cracks on the surface of the slab, usually more visible in the larger quartz crystals. These surface fissures should not be confused with structural cracks that permeate the entire slab. Fissures are a natural result of the heating and cooling of the stone during its formation millions of years ago. Fissures will not grow or expand over time.

The final appearance of the polished surface of each type of granite is determined by the specific composition or “mix” of quartz, feldspars and other minerals. While the overall appearance will be that of a high-gloss finish, some components within the granite may not accept the same level of polish as the rest of the crystals, which can result in “dull spots” or “watermarks.” Often these spots are visible on the darker crystals present in some granites. The hardness, composition and any other characteristics are taken into account during the polishing process and all efforts are made to achieve the highest level of gloss possible for each specific material.

While the type and specific composition determines the amount of pits, fissures and dull spots, some granites exhibit these characteristics more than others, and they may also be more or less visible depending on the lighting

conditions present in a room. Lighting plays an important part in the overall appearance of a finished granite countertop surface.

Pits, fissures and dull spots do not compromise the integrity of the stone in any way; they are natural characteristics of stone and will not impair the function or durability of the material. They are an expression of nature and add to the allure of the stone, which sets it apart from man-made surfaces.

FAQ's

Can I cut on Granite?

Yes you can cut on granite but it will dull your knives.

Can Granite scratch?

Granite is one of the hardest stones and most durable materials available for counter top applications. It is extremely difficult to scratch, but scratching can occur if something heavy and abrasive is slid across the counter top.

Can Granite Chip?

Granite will normally not chip under normal use, although a heavy object hitting a square countertop edge could chip out a small piece. Should this occur, the chip normally can be filled.

Can Granite Crack?

Granite does not crack under ordinary use. Granite is most susceptible to cracks during shipping, fabrication and installation. Granite will not flex like laminate and solid surface tops. Do not stand on the countertop, especially next to the sink, cooktop cutouts, or unsupported overhangs - too much stress or weight may cause the stone to crack.

Does Granite Stain?

Granite is a natural stone, therefore porous and should be sealed. However, granite has a relatively low porosity. A few colors may absorb more moisture with prolonged contact, which may cause stone to appear darker. Usually, no evidence remains when the liquid is removed and the stone dries. The stone should be sealed and checked every few months for absorption. There are many readily available and effective sealers available for

the homeowner, their application has been simplified greatly over the past five years and they are now very user friendly. Home Depot carries the SCI brand (Stone Care International), they have a line of cleaners and sealers that are effective and of reasonable cost.

How Do You Maintain Granite on a Daily Basis?

For daily cleaning use mild dish soap like Ivory, warm water and a soft cloth. You can also use a water based, ammonia free spray cleaner like clear vinegar formula Windex or Natural Stone Cleaner 409.

How Do You Know if Your Granite Needs to be Sealed?

Do a simple water test by pouring water on your counter top. If the water beads up like a car that has been waxed, the sealer is doing it's job. If it absorbs into the stone, it is time to reseal your counter top. Wait until the water spot has dried completely and then follow the instructions on your individual sealer.

Will my Granite look like the sample?

Samples provided give a general idea of your selected stone. Because granite is a natural product, each lot is different, and the fabricator is not responsible for variations in graining, tone, color, pits or fissures.

Do NOT use the following products on your granite countertop: Plumber's Putty, oil based adhesives, acid based cleaners, Scotch-Brite pads, scouring or steel wool pads