



## IMPORTANT GRANITE INSTALLATION INFORMATION

Due to the unique characteristic of natural stone, we would like to focus your attention on the following points about the material and installation

### About Granite

Granite is a natural stone that contains natural characteristics, including but not limited to:

- Color and pattern variation within the same slab
- Fissures - tiny hairline crevices which may look like cracks
- Pits - air gaps created during rock formation
- Inclusions - clusters of mineral deposits of any color during rock formation
- Water lines
- Blemishes

These are not flaws or defects which are present throughout the slab, and will not impair the function and durability of the material. The overall appearance of the slab is polished and mirror-like, but you will find them in your countertop.

### What is granite?

The term 'granite' is used to cover a group of related stones, all of which have their origin deep in the earth's molten mantle. As this extremely hot liquid material rises and cools, it forms a crystalline, granular structure. Granite is formed of hard minerals such as quartz, feldspar and mica. It starts off as liquid magma deep within the earth and it is cooled and compressed over millions of years under tons of pressure, resulting in a very hard stone that is later quarried, cut in slabs, polished and then transformed into a durable, heat and scratch resistant countertop.

### Stone Selection and Viewing

Samples are for general color selection but variation in color and pattern should be expected, therefore it is recommended to take the time to physically view the color and characteristics of the stone that will be transformed into your countertop. If you select not to view the stone, we will send you a picture of the slab at your request.

### Seams

Granite is a natural stone material cut in varying lengths from the quarry and pieces must be seamed together on site using butt-joining techniques. Seams should be viewed as an integral part of the stone project. **Granite seams can be felt and seen.** The acceptable industry standard for seams is up to 1/8" wide and 1/32" rise for every 12 inches. During fabrication, great care is taken to lay out the slab to minimize waste, blend the color and pattern, and place the seams in the best location for structural integrity and visual aesthetics. The natural variations of granite make it impossible to guarantee a match or blend in pattern or color from one piece of counter to the next.

## **Cut Outs**

Sink and cooktop cut outs are done in the shop and cannot be provided, because when cut they are not square and result in small and very sharp irregular pieces that are thrown away 100% of the time immediately after the cutout is made. We have the ability to cut any sink using the recommended manufacturer's electronic or paper template. We prefer not to customize or adjust cut out templates, therefore we only cut from manufacturer specific templates. Sinks, sink templates, faucets and cooktops not provided by AMC must be on site at the time of measure and installation to be able to deliver our promise of great quality.

## **Overhangs and Support**

Never cantilever unsupported granite where it might receive excessive stress like someone sitting on a counter or stepping on a counter to change a light bulb. You must have sufficient support underneath for overhangs over 6". Brackets and corbels should provide adequate structural support. Supports are usually installed by your carpenter prior to our installation.

Cabinets should be as level as possible to prevent stress points on the countertops. Consider the help of a professional woodworker to help you level properly. Excessive unevenness will prevent our crew to install the new countertops. This measure is to protect your investment.

If the cabinets have a slight out of level, the installation crew will install and shim to bring the countertop to perfect level. If you don't like the look of the shims, or the small gaps between the cabinet and the countertop, you may want to consider installing a decorative trim under the countertop to cover the gaps.

## **Sealing Granite**

Unsealed, granite can absorb stains such as oil, which can cause dark spots or discolorations. As a standard, we will apply a sealer that will protect your countertop for up to one year, then you will need to re-seal every 6 to 12 months. We also offer a 15-year warranty sealer for a fee that will protect your granite from staining without having to seal for 15 years.

## **Granite Care**

Granite is very hard but not impossible to damage. Impact can cause chips; hard objects can cause scratches; cracks may happen with sudden changes of temperature; acidic liquids may etch the surface. Always use a trivet or protection under hot pots, frying pans, slow cookers, etc. Clean your countertops with water and a sponge or granite daily cleaner.