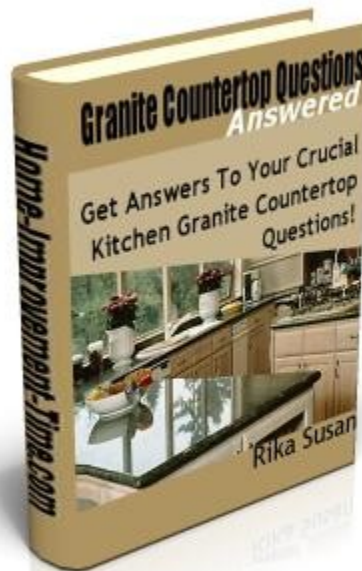


# Granite Countertop Questions Answered



**A Report by Rika Susan**

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Get Answers To Your 20 Top  
Wholesale Kitchen Granite  
Countertop Questions

**A Report by Rika Susan**

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**Picture courtesy of the Suppliers**

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# Get Answers To Your 20 Top Wholesale Kitchen Granite Countertop Questions

Are you wondering if wholesale kitchen granite countertops should be on your home remodeling wishlist? Do you need answers to a whole list of questions before you go shopping? Why don't you use the following 20 questions and [a set of free samples](#) to get to grips with this interior design option?

## 1. What exactly is a granite slab?

This igneous rock consists mostly of mineral elements such as feldspar, quartz and mica. These and other minerals all add to the color and incredible stability of the stone. Liquid magma or molten rock in the core of the earth is cooled and compressed under high pressure. This process takes place over millions of years. The resulting granite is then quarried, cut and polished or finished in a number of ways. Once it reaches this stage, it can be used to produce durable countertops, bathroom vanities, surrounds for fireplaces and any number of other interior design concepts.

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## **2. What is the best way to cut granite?**

The safest way to cut the stone into slabs is with a water jet and a diamond saw. It is then polished on one side. It will be beneficial to look for a [supplier that doesn't use petroleum by-products or kerosene](#) during the cutting process. In the long run, these may cause unsightly rust spots to appear. If you are opting for granite tiles, a smooth, beveled edge will give a perfect finish. Residential use requires an inspected, first quality material.

## **3. Is a kitchen granite countertop a value-adding home remodeling idea?**

Yes, absolutely. Real estate agents all agree that it is easier to sell a property with granite countertops in the kitchen. These surfaces are stylish and will last a lifetime if handled with care. This may be one of the best ways to utilize a home equity loan. Although it is somewhat expensive at the time, it pays handsome dividends. These days some reliable suppliers stock kits for a do-it-yourself effort. These are designed for inexperienced installers, and has the benefit that you can have your new kitchen design implemented without the help of a contractor. This option is less costly and may be well worth investigating.

## **4. Is granite really so hard that it can't be damaged?**

While it is true that this is one of the most durable surfaces for kitchen use, a hard blow may damage or chip your precious counter.

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So, be careful. It is safer not to hang heavy utensils and pots or pans directly above a granite countertop, for example. Generally speaking, heat won't damage the surface and if it is sealed, it won't stain that easily. Granite is the hardest natural product, next to diamond, sapphire, and ruby.

## **5. Will the surface crack or chip and can this be repaired?**

Due to the hardness of granite, it shouldn't chip with ordinary use. However, mishaps may occur and can cause chipping of the crystalline surface. In most instances, this will only happen where there is fairly severe mishandling. Don't attempt to repair a chip yourself. This is a job for the professionals. Granite dust and an epoxy mixture can be used. Never throw away a chipped piece - it can still come in handy during repairs! Cracks are unlikely once the countertop has been installed, unless excess weight is placed on unsupported edges. It is sensible to limit the overhang, if proper supports can't be installed.

## **6. Will the color be uniform throughout my kitchen?**

Again, as this is a natural material there will be color variations. You should expect natural 'movement' in terms of shading and patterning. The variations add to the uniqueness and character of this type of kitchen decor. No two slabs are exactly alike and even if you choose the same line as that of a friend, your kitchen will not match hers exactly. Try to lay out your slabs to find the best overall decorative effect before you begin installation. Check for any faulty slabs before

the installation. One drawback of the variations is that it may be difficult to find a match if you need to replace a slab down the line. However, the likelihood of this being necessary is very small.

## **7. How thick should my countertop be to be safe and durable?**

Generally speaking, one and a quarter inch should suffice. Don't use thinner slabs for kitchens. In a bathroom, a vanity top may be done with a thinner slab without structural problems.

## **8. In pictures granite always looks so shiny and smooth. Why does my sample have pits and fissures?**

Remember that granite has a crystalline structure. It is a natural material and will always have small pits and fissures that may look like cracks. However, these are not flaws and are simply part of the structure. If you are a perfectionist and think that this aspect will continue to bother you, rather opt for a different material. However, once your countertop has been installed and sealed and you look at the overall picture, these natural deviations won't matter and won't be that noticeable. If you are unsure, ask to see a whole slab, rather than just the small sample. The imperfections in fact contribute to the natural charm and beauty of granite.

## **9. Will the seams be noticeable?**

Yes, unfortunately there is no way to avoid this, unless you use one solid piece of granite for a countertop. Where two pieces are joined, your contractor will usually utilize an epoxy colored to match your shading. When the area is smoothed and neatened, only a thin line is left. If you are concerned about seams, ask your supplier which range you should choose for the least noticeable seams. For example, darker colors seem to disguise the lines more effectively than lighter shades.

## **10. Are there different granite finishes?**

Yes, a variety of finishes is used. It may be a good idea to examine the different options, before making your decision. If you are choosing a product for exterior use, you are likely to opt for an abrasive or a sandblasted finish. A honed finish will give you limited gloss. The [polished granite](#) you see in kitchens is popular and brings out the stone's best in terms of shading and patterning. Other possibilities include a flamed finish or a brushed finish.

## **11. What type of kitchen sink goes well with granite?**

A whole selection is available, but one of the most popular choices is an undermount stainless steel sink with stainless steel faucets. These are easy to keep clean and go well with any type of granite.

## **12. Why is this surface so popular with cooks?**

Granite gives you a smooth, cool surface to work on. If you are preparing pastry, you will find that it handles beautifully on granite. Keeping pastry as cold as possible is a must, and this surface really helps in this regard.

## **13. Can I use granite as a backsplash kitchen tile?**

Yes, [granite backsplash kitchen tiles](#) will complement your countertops perfectly. Just remember to make sure that the seam is properly and hygienically sealed with a caulking gun.

## **14. Is granite hygienic to use?**

Generally speaking, sealed granite is seen as being very safe in terms of food preparation. In experiments with laminates, wood, tile, concrete, stainless steel and granite, the last two came out tops in terms of safety. There is no evidence that shows that granite harbors bacteria or encourages its growth.

## **15. I have heard that I can cut directly on my granite kitchen countertop. Is this true?**

Your countertop will probably not mind, but due to the incredible hardness of the surface, be prepared to have a very dull set of knives

after a short while! It is still advisable to use a regular plastic or wooden cutting board in order to protect both the working surface and your expensive knives.

## **16. Do I need to be careful with hot pots and pans?**

Due to its origins, granite is fairly used to being exposed to heat! Extreme heat and pressure are involved during its formation. So, a hot pot is unlikely to damage it. Still, if you want to maintain the shiny appearance of the countertop and keep it clean, it may be a good idea to still use trivets and protective mats.

## **17. Do I have to be careful about stains?**

A counter that has been properly sealed with a non-toxic, impregnating product shouldn't stain easily. The advantage of using a cleaning substance such as AGM daily cleaner, is that it in fact tops up your sealing every time you use it. This means that you won't need to re-seal as often. Dark liquids and oils may sometimes be a problem, although stains can usually be prevented by cleaning a spill immediately. Generally speaking, sealing has to be repeated every year or two. There are products on the market that can be used to remove stains.

## **18. Can this stone product be used in a bathroom?**

Yes, granite vanity slabs are very popular and ensure an elegant bathroom. As the stone doesn't absorb moisture, it performs well in a bathroom, in spite of humidity.

## **19. Are granite floor tiles a viable remodeling option?**

Granite tiles are extremely durable and highly usable in high-traffic areas. Colors vary from black, to brown, gray, green, pink and a yellowish gold. Unpolished tiles are a popular design choice for outdoor use on terraces or patios.

## **20. How difficult or time-consuming is granite to maintain?**

The fact that granite is commercially used in high traffic buildings, both in interior and exterior areas, attest to its durability and robustness. Once it is treated with an impregnating sealant, it is to a large extent stain resistant and easy to clean. You can simply use a dedicated granite cleaner, such as AGM daily cleaner, Revitalizer, Klenz All or a gentle, unscented phosphate-free liquid soap. Use a soft cotton flannel or chamois for the job and rinse and dry the surface thoroughly after washing. Ask your supplier for the best product for your particular choice of granite. Using the wrong cleaner will lead to a dulling build-up on the countertop. Never use acid-based cleaners, scourers or abrasive materials on countertops or tiles.

With a bit of tender loving care, quality, [granite kitchen countertops](#) should give you years of pleasure and good service.

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