

Granite vs Quartz Countertops

Granite is mined in blocks and sliced into slabs, which are then cut to size locally for your specific layout. Granite is solid rock and may contain small amounts of resin to fill imperfections.

Appearance:

No two granite countertops are exactly the same. Granite varies in appearance within the same color depending on where and when it was mined. Varying gloss level, pitting, fissures are all natural characteristics of granite and should be considered when choosing your individual slab. Granite color ranges are typically in the earth tones, but can have some very exotic looks, depending on the specie of stone.

Granite seams are not invisible and can typically be felt. Depending on color, some granite seams will be less visible than others.

Durability:

Granite is porous and is susceptible to staining, therefore must be sealed to help prevent stains.

Granite is very heat resistant, but can be damaged by extreme direct heat exposure.

Chipping and micro cracks are to be expected, especially around areas of high use, such as sink openings and edges in front of dishwashers.

Maintenance:

Granite requires sealing periodically and can be maintained with granite cleaner/polish.

Quartz countertops are made from crushed quartz in various sizes, mixed with pigments and resin to bind the material together and form the slab required to make your counter.

Quartz is manufactured in a wider range of colors, from solid whites to reds, blues and earth tones. Colors are manufactured under tight tolerances, so colors are consistent with smaller samples used for choosing your color.

Quartz is naturally a lower gloss level than granite, primarily due to the resin content. Quartz counters have a more consistent finish and will not have pitting, fissures, etc. found in natural stone.

Quartz seams are not invisible and can be felt to some degree. Seams are typically more visible with solid colors than multi-colored colors.

Quartz is not porous and is highly resistant to staining and does not require any sealing.

Quartz is more prone to damage from heat exposure and from use of abrasive cleaners.

Quartz is less susceptible to chipping and cracking than granite, but is not impervious to that type of damage.

Quartz requires very little maintenance, other than soap and water or mild pH neutral cleaner.

With exception to honed quartz slabs, sealers or polishes should never be used on quartz counters.