

COUNTERTOP

Shopping Guide



TheDesignerStoneCo.com

Countertops add personality and flair to your kitchen. Replacing them, however, can be intimidating. But there's nothing to worry about — take a look at our guide on the process of selecting the right countertop for your kitchen.

Research And Exploration

The best countertop starts with research. First and foremost, you should select a countertop that fits into the present decor of your kitchen. Or, if you're remodeling from the ground up, pick a countertop that ties together your style and color palette. When properly taken care of, stone countertops will last a lifetime – so it's important to make the right choice.

Think about how much you use your kitchen. Is it the center of activity every day? Do you plan on cooking five or six days a week, or is your kitchen more of a showroom? The amount of work and abuse your countertop will receive should inform your choice of countertop material — as well as the color. Remember, lighter colors will show stains more than darker ones.

Choosing Your Look

When it comes to style, think about what you find appealing. Do you want warm or cool colors? Do you want a uniform appearance or vibrant patterns? Asking yourself these questions will help you find the most aesthetically pleasing.



Granite Or Quartz

Here at Designer Stone, you have two great options for your countertops: granite and quartz. Each has its strengths, so let's break down the characteristics of the two to help you make the best decision for your kitchen project.



Granite

Granite has been a popular countertop material choice for decades. When you choose granite, you are getting a completely unique countertop — because no two pieces are exactly alike. Plus, granite has hundreds of patterns to pick from. No matter what style of kitchen you have (or want to have), there's a type of granite that will be perfect. Granite also varies widely in price, from common to exotic.

Since granite is a naturally occurring product, it is subject to natural variations in color and mineral content. Even the finest slab of granite will contain small imperfections, much like wood. These imperfections add character and a unique look to the stone, highlighting its natural origins.

Maintenance is minimal, but granite isn't entirely maintenance-free. You need to apply sealant every year to keep material from entering the stones' pores and causing discoloration. Avoid harsh, acidic cleaners that could remove the sealant and damage the surface of the granite.



Quartz

Quartz, on the other hand, is a man-made material consisting of crushed stone held together in a resin binder. As it's a manufactured product, quartz is available in more consistent colors and patterns. Recently, manufacturers of quartz have been trying new techniques to make it look even more like natural stone.

Unlike granite, quartz is nonporous, so it doesn't require regular sealant applications. It's also highly stain-resistant. The maintenance routine for quartz is similar to granite: Use gentle, non-acidic cleaners to protect the surface.

Profile Edges

There are several edge styles that you can choose from to finish the look of your new countertops. An edge profile is a final touch to finish off your countertops. Different edges increase and decrease in popularity over time. Here are the most common edge profiles found on kitchen countertops:



Beveled Edge

This type of edge offers a geometric design with two 45-degree angles.



Chiseled Edge

The edge offers a very rustic, natural look.



Crescent Edge

A half-moon shape gives this edge a subtle curve.



Full Bull Edge

Similar to the crescent edge but with a more pronounced half-circle curve.



Demi Bull Edge

The curve stops halfway, making this edge a quarter circle.



Half Bull Edge

Similar to the demi bull, but the curve becomes straight.



Double Eased Edge

A square style with slightly rounded edges on the top and bottom.



Ogee Edge

An S-shaped curve catches the light for a dramatic effect.



Quarter Roundover Edge

Much like the double eased edge but more rounded.

Professional Measurements

When you've decided on your chosen material and styling, Designer Stone will send our professional technician to take accurate, laser-guided measurements of the area. You won't even have to worry about removing your old countertops!

Using digital technology greatly reduces the chances of error when making the final cuts. The walls in your home may seem straight, but most walls can hide subtle curves and imperfections.

If the new countertops are part of an entire kitchen remodel, then the stove and dishwasher need to be in their final positions. Your new sink and faucets should also be onsite so that the technician can take accurate measurements. Having the new fixture there for measuring reduces the chance of inaccuracy when the sink holes are drilled back at our shop. If it's a farm sink or cast iron sink, it needs to be installed before our technician's arrival. If you're having a separate cooktop installed, we ask that you provide us with the make and model of the cooktop so we can accurately make the cutout at our shop before your installation.

The Day Of Installation

It's the big day! When it's time for our technicians to install your new countertops, there are some things you should keep in mind to make the whole process simpler.

Ensure there is a clear path for our technicians to bring in your countertops. Stone is heavy and hard to maneuver; they will need as much room as possible. Keep any children and pets away from the work area. You, the homeowner, should be present during the entire process in case the technicians have any questions.

Enjoy Your New Countertops

The final step is the easiest: Enjoy your brand-new granite or quartz countertops!

When they are properly maintained, countertops from [Designer Stone](#) will give you a lifetime of beauty and service.