

Granite Surface Texture

Granite has a crystalline, granular structure, with a range of colors and consisting mostly of quartz, feldspars and minerals. Due to the fact the granite was formed over millions of years it has plenty of strength, permanence, solidity, quality and hardness. This of course makes it a great choice for a counter top surface. Most granite used for countertops is polished to a high gloss finish, however most granites have certain natural characteristics such as “pitting”, “fissures” or “dull spots.” To fully appreciate the beauty of the rock you must first understand the geology behind it.

Pits:

“Pitting” is normally due to the fact that granite is a natural product that has 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. Therefore this “pitting” cannot be avoided in all granite types. The good news, however, is that the pitting will not become worse with regular use or with the passage of time.

Fissures-Hairline cracks:

Like pitting, fissures/hairline cracks may also be noticeable in some granite colors. These are 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.

Dull Spots:

The composition of quartz, feldspars and other minerals will determine the final appearance of the polished granite surface. 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 “water marks.” Often these spots are visible on the crystals which are present in some granite.

Some granites exhibit more pits, fissures and dull spots than others, and they may also be more or less visible depending on the lighting conditions present in a room. Pits, fissures and dull spots do not compromise the integrity of the granite in any way; they are natural characteristics and will not impair the function or durability of the material. They are an expression of nature.

Care and Cleaning of Natural Stone

Basic Stone Care Do's and Don'ts:

- DO use coasters under glasses, especially if they contain alcohol or citrus juices.
- DO use trivets or mats under hot dishes or cookware.
- DO blot up spills immediately to minimize damage to the stone.
- DO clean surfaces regularly with cleaners designed for natural stone.
- DON'T use abrasive cleaners such as dry cleansers or soft cleansers.
- DON'T use alkaline cleaners not specifically formulated for stone.
- DON'T use abrasive cleaning pads such as green Scotch-Brite

Daily Cleaning:

Daily cleaning can be accomplished with clean, warm water with a mild dishwashing soap or products designed for natural stone. When using dish soap, avoid products with citrus or dyes. Window cleaning products should also be avoided. Some chemicals in household products can cause clouding and streaking in the polished finish of the stone in addition to reducing the effectiveness of sealers. Countertops should always be wiped dry after cleaning to also avoid clouding and streaking.

Mineral deposits can also form on your granite countertops, (even from softened water) most commonly around faucet fixtures. To remove, use a natural stone cleaner and #0000 steel wool. Fine steel wool does not contain any minerals or abrasive characteristics that would damage the stone.

Sealing:

Granite sealers are designed to help make cleaning countertops and helping prevent stains by not allowing penetration of liquids into the stone. They do not fill pits, fissures or any other natural inclusion in granite. All countertops are sealed during the fabrication process or at the time of installation. Frequency of sealing depends on the stones mineral make up and products used for daily cleaning. You can tell when your countertops need to be sealed if the water soaks into the stone without beading up. Credit River Granite & Bob's Wood Specialties carries Stonetech® and Granite Gold® products that can be used for cleaning and sealing. For sealer or more information on your granite countertops please feel free to contact your stone provider.

Stain remediation

There are products called "poultice" designed to remove most common stains. Typically a poultice is applied, left to dry and then cleaned up. Actual methods can vary with manufactures, so read and follow instruction carefully. Deep stains may require more than one application. Re-seal is necessary anytime a poultice is used.

Specific products for care

Granite Gold:



This line offers products to clean, seal, and polish your countertops made of natural stone.

Please visit their website (www.granitegold.com) to learn more about their options. Please visit us at Bob's Wood Specialties and Credit River Granite to purchase Granite Gold products.

Stonetech:



This line offers products to clean, seal, and polish your countertops made of natural stone.

Please visit their website (www.laticrete.com) to learn more about their options. Please visit us at Bob's Wood Specialties and Credit River Granite to purchase Granite Gold products.