

## Granite:

The “eye” of the artisan is imperative when working with granite. It is a classic choice for any kitchen. Granite is a very popular material no matter what the kitchen design entails.

Granite gives you a heritage quality countertop your friends will envy and you will love.

So, how do you decide if the elegance and “WOW” factor of granite is for you?

If....

- 1) You are looking for a beautiful surface that can be used in almost any kitchen design
- 2) You are looking for incredible variety of choice
- 3) You are looking for heirloom quality
- 4) You want simple maintenance
- 5) You want retained value over time

Then granite may be for you.



### Quality of Granite:

Granite comes from all over the world. Good and bad Granite can be seen from every country as well. Thus, buying based solely on the country of origin can potentially be an issue.

Stonewrights uses trusted suppliers that have worked with us for many years. They know the quality standards Stonewrights and their customers demand. Stonewrights technicians check the quality of the stone as soon as it hits the saw table. The use of a high intensity light for every nook and cranny assures us that incredible quality is the ultimate priority. It is the quality of the stone and the quality of the polishing and processing that makes the difference, not the country of origin.



#### Pro Maintenance Tip:

Alcohol is effective in removing grease from your stone surfaces.

### Edge Choices for Granite:

Stonewrights has a precision CNC milling machine on site to create incredibly consistent edges every time. No matter which edge you choose you can rest assured of Stonewrights’ ability to produce spectacular results.



Pencil Edge

*“Standard edge designs included with your choice of slab are Eased/Flat, Pencil, with Pencil being our customer's all-time favourite”, say the staff at stonewrights.ca.*

Other custom options are available for an additional charge as well:

- Bevel edge - flat angle at 45 degrees
- 3/8 Roundover – a bit softer than Pencil
- Demi-Bullnose - the profile of a quarter circle
- Ogee edge, an “S” shaped curve

### When to Seal and How to Seal:

Sealing your Granite countertops is strongly recommended. Granite is a glorious material and the differences in porosity, hardness and colours are infinite. Thus, there is no hard and fast rule on how often to seal your countertops. All granite countertops are sealed by the Stonewrights team right after the installation. Stonewrights recommends watching the areas that get the most wear and tear and then decide on sealing. A definitive method to determine the necessity for sealing your countertops is through the water beading test. This involves placing a large drop of water onto the countertop surface; if the water forms beads that remain intact for several hours or even overnight, your countertop does not require sealing. On the other hand, if the water is absorbed into the stone, this indicates that it's time to apply a fresh coat of sealant to protect the surface.



# Guide to Stone Countertops

## Pro Sealant Tip:

Make sure that if there is a stain on your kitchen countertop that you do NOT seal over the stain. This will make any removal operation 10 times harder. Remember to call Stonewrights if you have a stain issue. They carry professional level, specialized stain removal products. This, combined with their decades of experience with the care of your countertops can often save the day.

Some newer Granite materials may not even need additional sealing anymore. For example: Cosentino, one of our top-quality suppliers offers SENSEA Granite. This incredible stone undergoes a complete treatment that protects it for 15 years.

## Cleaning and Maintenance:

The fact is, 95% of people never have a serious issue with their granite countertops, so rest easy.

## Pricing of Granite:

Pricing of your kitchen countertops is a complex topic. Going by square footage pricing only can be misleading. Does the price quoted include edges, machining, polishing, delivery and installation?

Is it an exact apples-to-apples pricing from various suppliers including size, shape, and parameters of the project?

Stonewrights works on a project price with every individual aspect of the job broken out for you. There will be no surprises in pricing or hidden charges. Stonewrights uses our in-depth planning form and interview to ensure complete transparency.

Once all the details are agreed upon, both parties will get a signed copy of the agreement for your complete peace-of-mind.

This advice is from an incredibly good article from [diynetwork.com](http://diynetwork.com):



*"So, what do you do when you spill something on your Granite countertop? Immediately wipe your stone countertop with soap and water, especially if the spill material is acidic. (lemon juice for example.) Rinse the area with clean water and let dry. Make sure the water is fresh and clean, not used dishwasher, for example, that could contain grease. If the stain remains the next step is to apply a poultice. A simple and safe poultice can be made by mixing 1/4 cup of baking soda with just enough water to create a paste with the consistency of sour cream. Apply the paste to the stain and keep it on overnight. If it is still there, repeat."*



## It is always your Choice:

The final decision is up to you. There are pros and cons for every type of countertop. The secret is a quality product, milled by incredibly passionate artisans and installed with old-world attention to detail.

## Marble Countertops:

### Marble Means “Shining Stone”

Its beauty is beyond compare. Marble simply adds classic tones to any home. It is elegant, sumptuous and a statement about who and where you are in your life journey.

### Marble Stone Countertops:

So, how do you decide if the elegance and “WOW” factor of marble is for you?

### The Joy of Marble:

- A stunning addition to any kitchen with a vast array of colors and hues. Marble is an absolute show stopper!
- If you are a baker, you will love the coolness of marble for pastry creations.
- Longevity, if cared for properly, marble countertops can last for decades.
- Resale value of your home can be positively affected if you have stunning marble countertops in your kitchen.

As Sarah Schreiber of housebeautiful.com says, “Search marble countertops on Pinterest and scroll through — it’s hard not to pin every single image, right?”

### Cleaning and Maintenance:

Here’s a fantastic breakdown on how to clean marble countertops from diynetwork.com:

*“Don’t use vinegar, window cleaner or bleach on marble. A single use of these acidic substances will eat into a marble countertop’s surface and dull the stone. Don’t use abrasive cleaner or pads, either, because marble can be scratched. A secret in knowing how to clean marble countertops: You don’t need specialty cleaners for marble. Mild soap and hot water will do just fine. Wipe sudsy water on the counter with a soft cloth or sponge. This will remove dirt but won’t heal any etching or stains.”*

You can give your marble a little protection from stains and etching by using a 3 in 1 formula that Stonewrights has available and which cleans, protects and polishes.

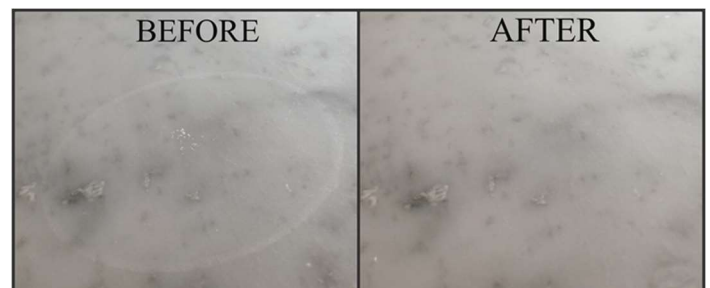


Additional to the spray, a sealer needs to be regularly applied. The scheduling of this procedure is dependent on different factors from the marble itself and usage. It is recommended to consult with your trusted dealer. You’re still going to have to wipe up spills immediately to avoid damage, but the sealant will give you a little more time to mop before the staining starts.

### What is “etching”?

Here is a great answer from Holly Mathis Interiors:

*“It’s just a colorless looking watermark. Often wiping down with a warm cloth they go away. I think it’s important to dry them as well if possible. Water spots might wipe away but acidic things like lemons or pickles or tomatoes can etch more permanently.”*



# Guide to Stone Countertops

You can minimize the risk of etching by sealing your marble countertops regularly, as stated before, but the best method is ensuring you do not put any potential problem items directly on your countertop. Using coasters, cutting boards and being quick to wipe up spills is your best bet.

There is a strong possibility you will get permanent etching on marble. If you are a type “A” personality, then potentially rethink your choice of marble. If you are more of a “stuff happens” type of person, marble may just be for you.

Marble demands a commitment from you to protect and maintain it religiously. In return, you get a heritage quality countertop your friends will envy and you will love. The bottom line is to never try and “fix” a problem yourself. Talk to your trusted fabricator.

## Pricing of Marble:

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## Tips for Choosing Marble:

**Honed vs Polished finish:** Honed marble is marble that has not gone through the polishing process. This results in the stone having a matte appearance, rather than the distinctive shine of polished marble. Many homeowners choose honed marble because of its natural look. *“A honed marble countertop will not be as reflective as one that is polished”*, advises Marble.com. One note, a honed surface will scratch easier than a polished one.

- *“White is best for hiding acid etchings that usually leave a whiteish mark”* says Architecturaldigest.com
- Take veining patterns into account. If you see something you like, make sure it is still available by checking with your fabricator.
- Make sure to deal with trusted countertop companies that have stood the test of time and will buy quality marble for your project.

One example is Carrara marble. It is very common and often one of the most cost-effective marbles available. Check with your supplier for different types of marble with different porosity and density.

## How We Spot Quality Marble:

We use trusted suppliers that guarantee quality. We do a quality check on every piece of marble delivered. No marble is recommended to our clients that is not 100 % quality checked by us.

## It Is Always Your Choice:

*The final decision is up to you. There are pros and cons for every type of countertop. The secret is a quality product, milled by incredibly passionate artisans and installed with old-world attention to detail.*



# Guide to Stone Countertops

## Quartz Countertops

*HGTV.com calls engineered quartz “the new countertop contender.”*

*“A 21<sup>st</sup> century marvel of ingenuity, engineered quartz is giving granite, soapstone and marble a race for the top, countertop that is. First developed in 1963 by the Breton Company to mimic Granite, engineered quartz has soared to incredible heights today.”*

### The Pros of Quartz:

- Quartz is not porous, so almost no risk of staining. There is no need to seal Quartz against stains.
- This hard surface is perfect for high usage kitchen countertops. It is more crack and stain resistant than natural stone.
- Quartz is man-made and has a vast arrange of colours available. It also has a great range of pattern options and different finishes.
- Quartz is environmentally friendly and recyclable.

As stated in [fortunebusinessinsights.com](http://fortunebusinessinsights.com), industry countertop report quartz and granite consume almost 50% of the total countertop market. These two behemoths in the kitchen countertop market are great choices for any makeover. If you want a fabulous design and the “wow” factor, or even just the envy of family and friends, let’s think quartz. [Housebeautiful.com](http://Housebeautiful.com) says that Quartz is a “top of the line option.”

### For the Technically Minded:

As per [remodelista.com](http://remodelista.com) “Engineered quartz is a manmade product created mostly from natural materials. It’s made of 90 to 94 percent ground quartz and 6 to 10 percent resins and pigments that are combined into durable and nonporous slabs.”

### Quartz Edge Choices:

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*Pencil Edge*

The stonewrights team also says “Standard edge designs included with your choice of slab are Eased/Flat, Pencil, with Pencil being our customer's all-time favourite”.

Other custom options are available for an additional charge as well:

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- Ogee edge, an “S” shaped curve

It is recommended you come see us in our Bridgewater, NS factory and see all the samples available to you. We have quartz samples in stock for you to look at, feel and bond with.



# Guide to Stone Countertops

## Cleaning and Maintenance:

- Quartz is more durable than other countertops. It is impervious to stains, scratches and cracks, and is highly heat and cold resistant.
- Quartz surfaces are extremely hard-wearing and will withstand virtually all the challenges of everyday life.
- Quartz surfaces don't need sealing, treating, polishing or any other form of maintenance, except a simple wipe clean with regular detergent and water.
- It is important to follow each stonemanufacturer's care and use manual to not void their factory warranty.

## Pricing of Quartz:

Pricing of your kitchen countertops is a complex topic.

Using square footage pricing can be misleading.

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Stonewrights has had a long and trusted relationship with two of the premier engineered quartz manufacturers available see and today. Come in to feel the quality of products to choose from. Your home is your sanctuary and you deserve the best.



Silestone is one of the largest suppliers of engineered quartz in the world. They offer an impressive selection of colours. It is important to note that Silestone makes a significant number of these slabs in larger (jumbo) formats which helps minimizing the number of seams required. As per [ca.silestone.com](http://ca.silestone.com) Silestone Natural Quartz is a surface material with outstanding properties created for kitchen and bath design applications. It offers beauty similar to natural stone in a wide range of colours and extraordinary textures.



Caesarstone.ca tells us their surfaces meet exacting standards of excellence from the initial procurement of raw materials to the final quality control check. Caesarstone Ltd. manufactures premium quartz surfaces, which are used in both residential and commercial projects as countertops. Caesarstone combines beauty with outstanding performance, enabling you to bring your design imagination to life. Quartz is more than beautiful. It is also one of nature's hardest minerals. Containing up to 90% natural quartz, Caesarstone surfaces combine practicality with stunning design.



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## Soapstone - Beauty with a “homey” feel

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Soapstone has a delightful quality appeal to it and is perfect for kitchen designs emphasizing warmth and a family feel. It has a “silky” look and texture that makes it feel “softer” and more inviting than other stone options for some projects.

The “eye” of the artisan is imperative when working with Soapstone. Its beauty is simple with understated qualities that add warmth to your kitchen.

Soapstone contains talc and this accounts for the softer feel and silky appearance. Soapstone’s color spectrum can be affected by oiling and waxing the surface. When oiled it can begin as a light grey color and go all the way to dark grey, dark green or black. Oiling or waxing Soapstone enhances the natural aging process and gives it a more consistent appearance over the whole countertop. Soapstone will naturally darken over time as well.

### Living with Soapstone

You have to be prepared to “baby” your new Soapstone countertop a bit. In the beginning you may have to oil your Soapstone a few times a month before tapering off as it ages.

A bit of vigilance will ensure your family a heritage quality countertop your friends will envy and you will love.

Use cutting boards and be careful of dropping heavy pans on it for example. (Good advice for all types of countertops actually.)

### So, how do you decide if the homey chic and “WOW” factor of Soapstone is for you?

As stated above, Soapstone will darken overtime as a patina develops. Some people love this and some do not. Be aware this WILL happen when deciding if Soapstone is for you.

### Other Points to Consider:

- You are looking for a beautiful surface that can be used in any kitchen design but excels in older homes and heritage look projects.
- If you are a baker and need non-porous, wipe and go countertops. Soapstone is acid and heat resistant as well.
- If you are looking for potentially cost-effective stunning results.

Then Soapstone should be a powerful contender.



# Guide to Stone Countertops

## The Wonders of Soapstone

Soapstone is a viable choice for any kitchen. It has different levels of hardness depending on its talc content. Less talc means a harder stone that is more suitable for kitchen countertops and the wear and tear they endure.

Soapstone is non-porous, this means no sealant is needed and spills of wine are not going to stain your countertops. (Still be sure to wipe up spills promptly.)

Soap and water are all the cleaning necessary for this remarkable stone.

Soapstone starts at a mid-level price and then goes up from there. Pricing may depend on where it is quarried (Brazil vs North America for example). We work with Brazilian Soapstone and Alberene Soapstone quarried by Canadian company Polycor in Virginia USA.

Pricing is on a square foot basis as for all natural stones. We like to work out the project details before quoting natural stone. Different size slabs or distinctive patterns can alter the potential price depending on installation parameters and clients' special requests.



You will need to contact your dealer to see the size options available. You may have to order samples as well as most dealers do not stock a vast variety of Soapstone slabs.

The final decision is up to you. There are pros and cons for every type of countertop. The secret is a quality product, milled by incredibly passionate artisans and installed with old-world attention to detail.

Ensure your dealer owns their own factory, curates personally the stone slabs they stock and have their own world-class installation team.

Expert guidance is only a click away!

Visit <https://stonewrights.ca> to arrange your FREE consultation today!

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We hope you have enjoyed our Guide to stone countertops. We are sure you have a million other questions and we are happy to schedule a one-on-one in-depth consultation to go over the countertops of your dreams.

Please reach out to Felicia to schedule a chat and a tour or visit <https://stonewrights.ca>.

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**Email:** [felicia@stonewrights.ca](mailto:felicia@stonewrights.ca)

**Website:** <https://stonewrights.ca>