

stone countertop

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I will be replacing my laminate countertop with stone. I don't want to be emailing you with problems after the fact. What is your recommendation for a stone countertop? I am interested in both marble and granite. Are some marbles and granites more recommended than others? How can I know if the fabricator is doing the right thing re: sealing and preparation of the stone?

Dear Denyse:

If it's a kitchen countertop that you're talking about, then marble is out of the picture, unless you take it hone-finished and just let it go!!

As for the granite I hope you will understand the true meaning of what I'm about to say. It appears to me that like most other inquirers at this stage you seem mostly interested in the type of stone and/or its physical characteristics. It's human nature at work, I reckon! :-)

How about if I tell you that a certain stone is a good choice and then you get a low-grade slab? Trust me: the human factor is far more important than the stone itself and should be the only true deciding factor!

In an industry that's virtually unregulated, how good and reputable the fabricator who's is going to process the stone you'll end up choosing is far more important than the stone itself. None of the horror stories that get posted in this very site stem from the stone: they all stem from the fabricator. That is why I seldom make final statements about any one particular stone or another. There may be differences within the same stone (and I'm not talking about looks, here!) from one bundle of slabs and the next. The slabs may have also been either "doctored" (which is bad), or "resined" (which overall is good) by the factory, which would make a big difference. Even more important, what's a good stone in the hands of some "Michelangelo"?! And again: a reputable fabricator will only carry high-grade slabs, not some "special". Also, a good fabricator doesn't have to do anything! "prepare" the stone; they may have to apply a good impregnator (a.k.a. sealer) to it if the stone can take it in, but that's about it.

We have available a very comprehensive article on "How to Shop for a Granite Kitchen Countertop" that will give you all the intelligence you need to venture yourself with confidence in the stone industry jungle, and it includes the world renowned "Lemon juice (and oil) test"! It does carry a small price tag, and you can order it by logging on the Educational Literature section at: <http://www.marblecleaning.org/literature.htm>. It's available in pay-per-download format and I consider it a cheap "insurance premium" to pay when there are thousands of \$ involved! Not to mention the little and much needed support you'd be giving to the cause, **your** cause, since every single penny of the cost of the article will be used to support it.

Also, will you please read and e-sign our Statement of Purpose at: <http://www.marblecleaning.org/purpose.htm>? By spreading the word about this valuable site among your friends & family and the stone trades' people you've been dealing with you will be rendering everybody a valuable service!

Also, do take advantage of the plethora of FREE Helpful Hints available at: <http://www.marblecleaning.org/helpful-hints.htm>. They're on the house!

Thank you.

Ciao and good luck,

Maurizio Bertoli

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