

german green limestone or rainforest green honed for kitchen countertops

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Please advise on the use of german green limestone for countertops. I see you advise against any limestone and am wondering if this is harder and okay for kitchen use. I am being advised that it is used alot in europe and is much harder than other (light) limestones.

The other choice is rainforest green honed. I wanted soapstone all along but after testing sample, I am way to neurotic to worry about scratches.

thank you

Dear Cynthia:

The stone itself has nothing to do with it. It's rather a collective culture issue.

All throughout the Mediterranean basin marble is a very popular stone as a kitchen countertop and everybody enjoys it. (Limestone is not so popular, but certain types of limestone could be acceptable in relation of what follows, and the two you've listed are part of that short list.) In Northern Europe and all throughout North America, many like the way it looks, but nobody enjoys it!

How's that?

For the simple reason that In Southern Europe they never install a polished marble countertop (or a polished marble floor, for that matter). They start from a hone-finished surface and then they start using and abusing it and only care for it with a good-quality stone cleaner (like MB-5). The worse it gets, the better they like it! It's considered "aging". It's like a pair of old blue jeans, if you know what I mean: a highly sought "lived-in" look.

While the looks of an old pair of jeans is very much appreciated in Northern Europe or in North America, too, the same principle does not seem to apply to stone. Most people over here expect their stone to look like brand-new all the time, and any "exchange" is not considered "aging", but a damage that needs to be rectified.

Hence the problem.

The question now is: regardless of your geographical location, which one of the two groups do you belong to?...

I may be wrong, but going by your reported excessive worries about scratching soapstone, I'm afraid that you're too "American" to appreciate limestone in a kitchen! J

May I ask you now to please read and e-sign our Statement of Purpose at: <http://www.marblecleaning.org/purpose.htm> ? J

Ciao and good luck,

Maurizio Bertoli

