# Stonemark® GRANITE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## Stonemark® GRANITE BY THE HOME DEPOT

All natural stone falls into three major classes - igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Stonemark material can be classified into three groups that fall into one of three categories: granite in the igneous class, travertine in the sedimentary class and marble in the metamorphic class.

Igneous rock is formed by the solidification or cooling of magma. The granite group is visibly granular and consists of mostly quartz and feldspars. Granite is synonymous with quality, strength, permanence, solidity and hardness. 90% of all countertop sales fall into the igneous class.

Sedimentary rock is the naturally cemented accumulation of particles from the physical or chemical weathering of any existing rock. Travertine is formed as a result of accumulation of calcite from hot springs. The holes are formed from water flowing through the stone. These holes are often filled with synthetic resins or cements during the fabrication. 1% of all countertop sales fall into the sedimentary class.

Metamorphic rock is created when igneous or sedimentary rocks are changed by heat, pressure, chemical reactions and time. Marble is recrystallized limestone. Marble's structure is more compact than travertine's. All calcareous rocks produced by nature and capable of being polished are called marbles. Impurities such as silica, iron oxides, and graphite give marble its color & characteristic, rich veining, and clouding. These impurities also weaken the marble. 7% of all countertop sales fall into the metamorphic class.

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## Stone Selection

**Are all granites alike?**
No, your slab is hand selected by our worldwide team of certified inspectors. Any slabs that do not conform to our highest quality standards are rejected. Our slabs are premium grade, with guaranteed quarry-to-customer quality. In addition, each Stonemark countertop has the added protection of Stoneguard HD Sealer - a process that makes Stonemark granite food and beverage stain resistant and virtually maintenance free. Backed by a 20-year warranty for stain resistance and material integrity, and surprisingly affordable, there is simply no other stone like Stonemark.

**What is natural stone?**
Natural stones are classified as igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary based on their geological formation. There are many different types of natural stones including granite, marble, limestone, sandstone, soapstone and schists. Granite is the most common and most suitable natural stone for countertops.

**What is the difference between granite and a man-made countertop?**
Granite is a 100% natural surface and its beauty cannot be duplicated. Granite is also fire proof and will not burn. Man-made surfaces (also known as engineered stone) are bound with resins that will burn.

## MATERIAL INTEGRITY

**Is Stonemark granite scratch resistant?**
Yes. Stonemark granite is scratch resistant. Composed primarily of quartz, granite is one of the hardest natural materials on Earth.

**What will happen if I put a hot saucepan on my Stonemark® granite countertop?**
Your Stonemark® granite is heat resistant. However, placing a hot saucepan directly from the stove onto any countertop is not recommended.

**Will my granite crack if I sit or stand on it?**
We do not recommend sitting or standing on your granite countertop.

**Does granite chip?**
Granite is not indestructible and we recommend being especially careful with heavy pots and saucepans around the edges of the countertop and the sink cutout.

**Can I cut food on my top?**
While granite is scratch resistant, we do not recommend cutting food directly on your granite countertop mainly to avoid your cutting knives becoming blunt.

## MAINTENANCE

**Is it easy to maintain a Stonemark® granite countertop?**
Yes, normal use and regular cleaning with approved products (like SCI products specially formulated for granite and offered through The Home Depot), will ensure that your countertop maintains its natural beauty for many years. Abrasive or acidic household cleaners are to be avoided. Any spills

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should be wiped up as soon as possible. Details about the Countertop Care Program will be provided with your purchase of a Stonemark countertop.

**How do I clean my countertop?**
We recommend SCI Granite and Stone Cleaner for daily use. Other SCI products can be used to either maintain or polish the finish. Abrasive or acidic cleaners including lemon juice, vinegar and bleach should not be used. Any spills should be wiped up as soon as possible.

**Will granite maintain its polished gloss?**
Yes. Regular cleaning, with specially-formulated products and normal use, will ensure that your granite countertop never loses its gloss.

## STAINING

**Is Stonemark granite stain resistant?**
Every Stonemark granite slab is treated with Stoneguard HD Sealer. This technology, combined with decades of experience, allows Stonemark to provide an unprecedented free 20-year limited warranty for food and beverage stains and material integrity.

**What should I avoid with my countertops?**
We suggest that spills of wine/alcohol, mustard, oils and acidic products should be wiped up immediately. Please see the care and maintenance section for full details.

**What happens if my granite stains?**
In the rare occasion that your granite is stained by a food or beverage, The Home Depot's installers will work with you to remove the stain and reseal your granite to preserve and protect it.