

Wisconsin Granite Resource Guide



WISCONSIN GRANITE

QUARTZ | STONE | GRANITE | COUNTERTOPS + MORE

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Facts

- Quartz is manufactured in a factory.
- 93% is composed of crushed natural quartz / 7% is composed of polymers and resins which hold the crushed quartz together.

Positives

- Quartz is non-porous and does not require sealing.
- Quartz will not absorb fluids or materials which can cause deep stains (surface stains can still occur from items such as: red wine, pizza sauce, etc.) Some of these surface stains can permanently stain the quartz.
- Quartz countertops can have a 12 inch overhang without support, while granite is limited to 10 inches without support.
- Quartz offers consistent patterns whereas natural stone will vary (quartz can vary in color tone or pattern from slab to slab, but is still more consistent than natural stone).

Things to Consider

- Quartz is heat sensitive, this is due to the resin (glue) that is used to bind the crushed quartz together during the production of quartz slabs. Direct exposure to high heat (300 degrees or higher) could cause burn marks, cracking, discoloring, or warping of the stone. Wisconsin Granite advises to use trivets and hot pads when placing hot pans, older model crockpots, and other hot items on quartz countertops.
- Quartz and natural stone may have variations in its finish. This means that when light reflects on it, some areas may appear shinier than others. This is due to the resin/epoxy used in quartz and in natural stone. This is used to help bind areas of the stone together.
- Honed/Matte finished quartz requires more care, since fingerprints and marks are more visible. (dark colors will show more markings)

Care

A good philosophy to follow when cleaning quartz, less is more. Be gentle with your quartz, it is not indestructible. Daily Routine: a microfiber cloth with water only. If a little more attention is needed, use a little dawn dish soap mixed with water. Make sure you wipe off any remaining dish soap as the residue left behind may cause a cloudy appearance. There are many safe quartz cleaners on the market, always follow manufactures guidelines.

If a surface stain occurs, lightly apply liquid Bar Keepers Friend. Lightly scrub, do not press hard as it may remove some of the quartz finish.



Facts

- Granite is a natural stone that is quarried from the earth. The color and patterns in the stone are the result of millions of years of development.
- Granite is the oldest igneous rock in the world, believed to have been formed as long as 300 million years ago.

Positives

- Granite is heat resistant.
- Chips and scratches are easier to repair in granite than it is in quartz.
- Granite countertops are hard and durable.
- Each piece is unique - a true piece of art.
- Granite is completely natural and from the earth.

Things to Consider

- Granite is a porous stone, which requires sealing. Typically, darker colors in granite are denser and do not require as frequent of sealer as lighter granite does.
- Granite is a hard and durable surface, but is not as strong as quartz. Granite can also chip, but can be repaired with epoxy resin in most situations.
- Granite and quartz may have variations in its finish. This means that when light reflects on it, some areas may appear shinier than others. This is due to the resin/epoxy used in granite and quartz, which is used to bind areas of stone together.

Care

A good philosophy to follow when cleaning granite, less is more. Be gentle with your granite. Daily Routine: a microfiber cloth with water only. If a little more attention is needed, use a little dawn dish soap mixed with water. Make sure you wipe off any remaining dish soap as the residue left behind may cause a cloudy appearance. There are many safe granite cleaners on the market, always follow manufactures guidelines.

Yearly Routine - seal your granite, this is a simple process. Wipe on and wipe off, that's it. (some granite requires more frequent sealing than others)



Facts

- Quartzite is a metamorphic rock, formed over millions of years from pressure and heat.
- Quartzite is composed of sand grains which form sandstone. The sandstone is buried deep in the earth and becomes hotter and more compressed over time. The grains of sand fuse together to form a very dense stone called Quartzite.
- A highly metamorphosed quartzite is the hardest stone used for countertops.
- Although quartzite has been in the earth for millions of years, it was first commercially brought into production for countertops in 2002, when cutting technology became available for cutting quartzite.



Positives

- Quartzite is a heat resistant natural stone.
- Quartzite is a jaw dropping stone which takes center stage in your space.
- A highly metamorphosed quartzite rates a 7 on The Mohs Hardness Scale. It is harder than the blade of a knife.
- Quartzite is resistant to acids and will not etch, but only if it is a highly metamorphosed quartzite. Read more information on what makes a quartzite more dense and less susceptible to staining on the next page.
- Taj Mahal is an example of a highly metamorphosed quartzite, with it's minerals being bonded tightly together from intense pressure and heat.

Things to Consider

- Quartzite can be a confusing stone. Some quartzites are mislabeled or not fully metamorphosed (received less heat and pressure during it's formation), causing them to be less dense and more porous. This can increase the risk of the stone etching and staining. Sealer will help, but not eliminate the risk.
- The porosity of quartzite depends on the amount of metamorphosis the stone undergoes as it is formed.
- Quartzite will take longer to fabricate and dry out.
- Quartzite can show watermarks, which typically will dry after a period of time. Wisconsin Granite will not be able to provide an exact timeframe for drying, each Quartzite is different. Sealer will not completely prevent watermarks. (does not pertain to highly metamorphosed quartzite)
- Quartzite is more expensive than granite or quartz countertops.
- Wisconsin Granite stocks some quartzite. We stock quartzite that is highly metamorphosed and more dense. If you visit one of our suppliers to view other quartzites, there can be a chance that the stone will be more porous.

Care

A good philosophy to follow when cleaning quartzite, less is more.

Daily Routine: a microfiber cloth with water only. Clean up after yourself, do not leave food or items on your countertop for long periods of time. Depending on the porosity of your quartzite countertops, etching or staining may occur, even when sealed. Therefore, always wipe up after cooking, use large cutting boards to protect your surface. Keep the surface area dry around the sink and under dishes that are wet. Quartzite countertops will need to be sealed periodically. If standing water on a quartzite countertop leaves a dark mark, then it is important to seal again.



ALL ABOUT ●●● QUARTZITE • DRYING TIME • SCHEDULING • STAINING 7

WHY CAN QUARTZITE TAKE LONGER TO DRY?

Quartzite is a natural stone, originally a sandstone. Through the process of metamorphosis, the stone turned into a quartzite. The porosity of the quartzite will depend on how much pressure and heat occurred during the metamorphosis process. Less pressure and heat will cause the quartzite to be more porous and susceptible to longer drying times, along with greater risk of staining. Water is used to fabricate countertops and depending on the porosity of the quartzite, there is a risk that the stone will not dry out or will absorb water in the future (after installation). Typically, the lighter colored quartzites are more porous. If you love a lighter quartzite, but don't want to worry about the porosity of them, Taj Mahal is a great option. Taj Mahal is an example of a less porous quartzite, formed from intense pressure and heat during its transformation from a sandstone to a quartzite, making it less porous and a great option for a lighter colored quartzite. The photos below are examples of quartzites formed under less pressure and heat, causing them to be more porous.

Drying Time Examples: after fabrication / before install



Day 1



Day 7 - still wet



Day 1



Day 7 - still wet

Quartzite Job Details:

1. Time between measure and install will be longer than normal and may need to be changed if material doesn't dry. Some quartzites can take months to dry, while some will not dry out and need to be installed prior to fully drying. Quartzite also takes longer to cut and fabricate than other natural stone.
2. Higher porous quartzite will need to be sealed more frequently to prevent staining. Stains may still occur with sealing.
3. Water absorption after install may occur, especially around sink, faucet, and cooking area.



After 10 days of drying in the hot summer sun



← Still wet at install after drying in the shop for 12 days.



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Love quartzite but worried about the issues? Check out some of our in-stock quartzite options. For example Taj Mahal Quartzite and Audacia, less porous due to greater pressure and heat during metamorphosis.

Facts

- Marble is a natural stone that is quarried from the earth, the color and patterns in the stone are the result of millions of years of development.
- Marble is a metamorphic rock which forms when limestone is subjected to heat and pressure during metamorphism. During metamorphism, the calcite in the limestone recrystallizes to form a rock with interlocking calcite crystals. The recrystallization is what separates limestone from marble. The size of the calcite crystals will be determined by the level of metamorphism (heat and pressure) that occurred. If low levels of metamorphism, the calcite crystals will be small. How do you tell if your marble has small calcite crystals? Marbles with small and delicate veining represents a marble with smaller calcite crystals, which means it went through less heat and pressure when transforming from a limestone to a marble. Marbles with larger veining and pattern, represent marbles with larger calcite crystals, which means it received greater pressure and heat during metamorphism.
- Marble comes from dolostone or limestone. When a marble is rich in mineral dolomite, it is called a dolomitic marble. Fantasy Brown Marble is an example of a dolomite marble.
- Marble has been used for thousands of years and can be found in iconic places around the world like the pyramids, sculptures and buildings.

Positives

- Marble is a stunning natural stone with many unique colors and appearances.
- Marble is heat resistance.
- Longevity if maintained.
- A jaw dropping stone, which will take center stage in your space.

Things to Consider

- Marble is a soft stone, causing it to scratch and etch.
- Marble is composed of calcium carbonate, which makes it susceptible to etching by any acid.
- Marble is softer and more porous than granite, which can cause more scratches, pitting, cracks, stains, and even dulling of the shine.
- A honed marble shows less etching and scratches than a polished marble.
- Some stains and etching cannot be removed. However, a full resurfacing of the marble would help restore it. The resurfacing would need to be done by a professional and can be costly.
- Marble requires sealing frequently and may need to be sealed up to 3 times per year or more. Stone must be inspected regularly to check if it is sealed properly. If water doesn't bead up, the marble is not protected. Marble is susceptible to staining from cooking oils, red wine, and many other household items.
- Marble is typically higher priced than quartz or granite.

Care

A good philosophy to follow when cleaning marble, less is more.

Daily Routine: a microfiber cloth with water only. Clean up after yourself, do not leave food or items on your countertop for long periods of time. If a little more attention is needed, use a little dawn dish soap mixed with water, make sure you wipe off any dish soap residue that may be left behind or a cloudy appearance can occur. Depending on the porosity of your marble countertops, etching or staining can occur quickly, even when sealed. Therefore, always wipe up after cooking, use large cutting boards to protect your surface. Keep the surface area dry around the sink and under dishes that are wet. If mild etching or stains occur, a marble polishing powder that is approved for marble can be used, follow the manufacturer's directions.

DOLOMITE MARBLE

Example Stone: Fantasy Brown Dolomite Marble

Facts

- Fantasy Brown Marble is created through the process of a dolomite rock being exposed to intense heat and pressure (metamorphism), turning the dolomite rock into a dolomite marble. Whereas a marble originates as a limestone, not a dolomite.
- Fantasy Brown Marble is an example of a Dolomite Marble, which contains a high concentration of calcium carbonate, just like marble. But Fantasy Brown is harder than regular marble because of its origin, which is from dolomite (formed by the dolomitization process), and then the dolomite rock goes through metamorphism to create a dolomite marble.
- Main difference between a marble and a dolomite marble? Marble starts as a limestone and becomes a marble through heat and pressure (metamorphosis), whereas a dolomite marble starts as a dolomite (dolomite created by a chemical geological process called dolomitization) and goes through metamorphosis like marble does.

Positives

- Harder than marble and will not etch and scratch as easily as marble.
- More resistant to acid than marble.
- Heat resistant
- Beautiful and unique slabs, making your countertops a piece of art.
- Typically available in brushed/leathered or polished finish.
- More color options available, ask us about Fantasy Blue Marble Dolomite (sometimes other names used in the industry).
- Dolomite marble is typically more affordable than marble.

Things to Consider

- Dolomite Marble is harder than marble, but not as hard as granite or quartzite.
- Dolomite Marble is softer and more porous than granite, which can cause more scratches and stains. However, it is harder than marble.
- Dolomite Marble requires sealing and may need to be sealed up to 3 times per year. Stone must be inspected regularly to check if it is sealed properly. If water doesn't bead up, the dolomite marble is not protected.

Care

A good philosophy to follow when cleaning marble, less is more.

Daily Routine: a microfiber cloth with water only. Clean up after yourself, do not leave food or items on your countertop for long periods of time. If a little more attention is needed, use a little dawn dish soap mixed with water, make sure you wipe off any dish soap residue that may be left behind or a cloudy appearance can occur. Depending on the porosity of your marble countertops, etching or staining can occur quickly, even when sealed. Therefore, always wipe up after cooking, use large cutting boards to protect your surface. Keep the surface area dry around the sink and under dishes that are wet. If mild etching or stains occur, a marble polishing powder that is approved for marble can be used, follow the manufacturer's directions.

Facts

- Soapstone is a metamorphic rock with 50% of it made from Talc.
- Soapstone has a long history of being quarried and used for everything from paving, cooking utensils, whisky stones, and countertops.
- Soapstone provides a classic old-world aesthetic and compliments many design pallets.

Positives

- Low maintenance - **no sealing** needed and highly stain resistance. (higher in maintenance if you oil your soapstone)
- **No Stains** due to the minerals in Soapstone - comprised primarily of talc, which has an extremely high resistance to chemicals and acids. Soapstone is used on chemistry lab tables due to the durability of the stone.
- Nearly **zero porosity** due to it being a hydrophobic stone, it does not absorb water.
- Naturally **sanitary** for food preparation and does not harbor bacteria or absorb liquids.
- **Retains heat** and will not scorch when in contact with hot cookware.
- **Durable** - does not crack easily.

Things to Consider

- **Soapstone is soft! It will scratch!** However, this is typically not a deal breaker for users. The positives outweigh the scratching and people who select Soapstone understand how to handle the scratches (listed in care).
- Soapstone is extremely soft, ranging from 2-4 on the Mohs scale of hardness. In comparison, granites typically range from 6-7 on the Mohs scale.
- Soapstone slabs are typically smaller and may require **more seams** in your project.
- Soapstone can **wear unevenly**. If you want a solid dark look, you will need to oil it every few months, more in the beginning. If you love the natural look, oil is not necessary.

Care

- A good philosophy to follow when cleaning soapstone, less is more.
- **Daily Routine:** a microfiber cloth with water only or a water and dish soap mixture. Even though Soapstone is resistant to most acids found in kitchens, we recommend **NOT USING** acidic cleaners.
- **Reduce Scratches** - use cutting boards during preparation.
- **Disguise/Remove Scratches** - use mineral oil for smaller scratches or sandpaper for larger scratches. This is a DIY project and a professional is not needed.
- **Mineral Oil** (if you choose to oil your soapstone)
To obtain a uniformed dark and rich color - apply mineral oil. Oil will need to be applied several times before it reaches its final color. As soon as the previous coat of oil fades, oil again. To reach a permanently dark color, consistent oiling will need to be done by you for about 6-8 months but each situation and stone can present differently. After that period of time, oil per your preference.

ALL ABOUT ●●● BACKSPLASH

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UNDERSTAND EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

What type of backsplash did you order? Wisconsin Granite can install the standard 4" backsplash to match your countertops or full-height backsplash.

Wisconsin Granite does not install tile backsplash.

*We advise having some sort of backsplash between the wall and the countertop. Walls are not perfect, backsplash helps create a more finished appearance and prevents fluids from dripping down the wall and cabinets. If you choose to not have us install stone backsplash to match your countertop, we suggest the installation of tile backsplash.

Wisconsin Granite does not provide or install tile backsplash.



4" Stone Backsplash



Tile Backsplash



Full-Height Backsplash

Did You Know?

Wisconsin Granite will measure differently if a customer is getting backsplash. This is why you need to decide in advance what your backsplash will be.

Why Do We Measure Differently?

If you plan to get tile backsplash installed, we will scribe your wall. Tile thickness is thinner than stone, scribing your wall will help ensure gaps do not show after tile is installed. When getting stone backsplash, we will not scribe your wall.

Learn More -

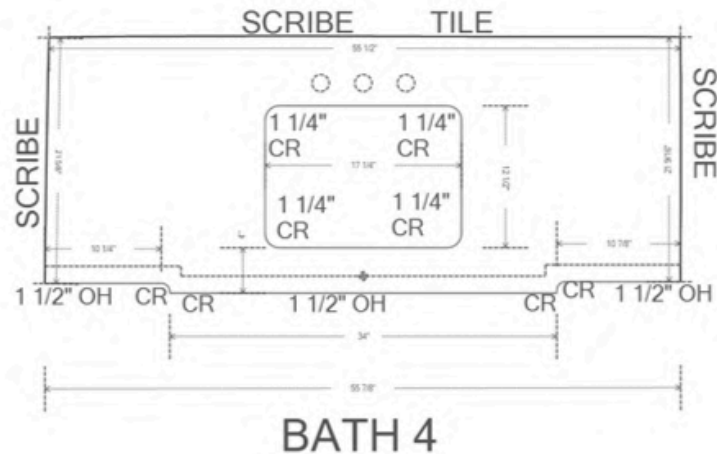
What is a Scribe,

why is it being used if

I am getting tile backsplash?


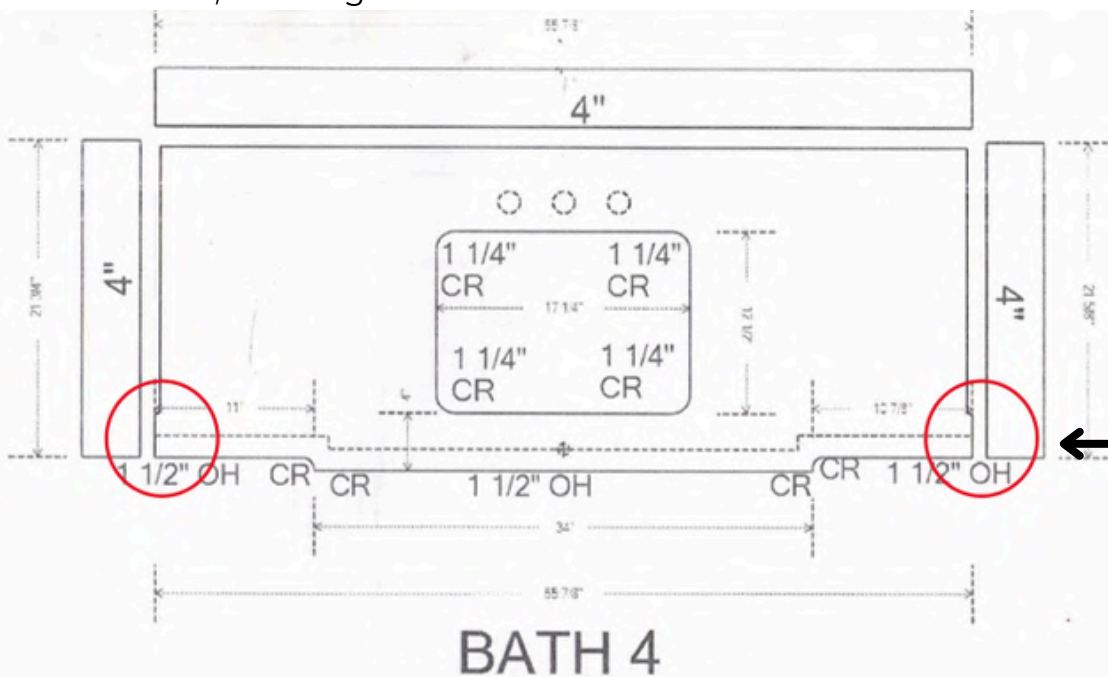


A laser is pointed at several spots on your wall, measuring each section. By measuring multiple points of your wall, the stone countertop will fit closer to your wall and flow with wall variations.



YOUR SPACE WILL BE MEASURED WITHOUT A SCRIBE.

Countertops with backsplash will not be scribed; rather, a cutback is used to pull areas of the stone countertop away from the wall and allow for a good fit, despite wall variations. The backsplash will hide the cutback area. A cutback begins after 3"; the first 3" is tight to the wall, followed by a $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ " cutback. The back of the piece will also sit $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ " off the wall, allowing for wall variations.



The red circled areas shown on this example, displays the front 3" tight to wall before the cutback begins.

Full Height Backsplash

Overview - Education - Expectations



1. Electrical: Prep your job site for the install; shut off electric outlets, consult an electrician about box extensions, ranges must be moved out or not installed, cooktop must not be installed, faucets cannot be installed prior to full height backsplash being installed.
2. Plumbing: Remove all faucets, RO, and air gaps prior to backsplash installation
3. Paid Layout: Digital layouts are required for full height backsplash at an extra charge.
4. All About The Flow and Pattern of Your Backsplash:
 - a. Vein Matching Request: If you would like vein matching or optimal flow, there will be extra charges for additional material and scrap to achieve this. Pieces may need to be cut from the center of a stone to achieve this flow which creates scrap and additional material required. Discuss and determine at the time of order to ensure enough stone is allocated.
 - b. Pattern Flow: Directional flow is almost always preferred by clients from one wall piece to the other on intersecting walls rather than the flow of a pattern into the countertop, make sure you are aware of this and understand. It is important to have clear and achievable expectations prior to starting your project.
 - c. Direction of Flow: Directional flow on your countertops and full height splash may not be achievable when there are intersection walls with full height splash along with changes in the direction of your cabinets / countertops.
 - d. Flow from Counter to Backsplash: 4" backsplash or full height backsplash will not flow perfectly as a general statement since there is 1.25" – 1.75" difference from where the stone is cut to where it will appear on your countertop. If your walls are not flat (bowed) this will also impact the flow as pieces will need to be shimmed so they are perpendicular to the countertops based on the bow in your wall, which impacts the placement of back splash and the flow of a pattern.
5. Questions, reach out: Clearly discuss your objectives and understand what is achievable with your point of contact and the measure tech who measures your project to ensure your vision is met and the expectations are achievable and agreed upon for your quote and your order. Call 608-838-4333

Gaps Between Full Height Backsplash and Cabinet/Wall



Why is there a gap?

In order to install your full height backsplash, the piece needs to be smaller than the space. When installing, we place the bottom of the full height piece on the counter, the piece is angled and then tipped into place. The piece needs to clear upper cabinets and all obstructions.

Finishing Tip:

Some customers will add trim to cover up the gap.



Electrical Outlets

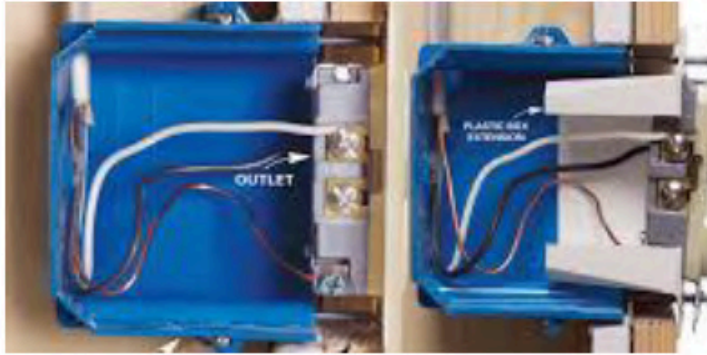
All **power must be turned off at the circuit breaker** prior to

WG arriving for the full height install.

Receptacles will need to be pulled through the stone so they mount on the surface of the stone.

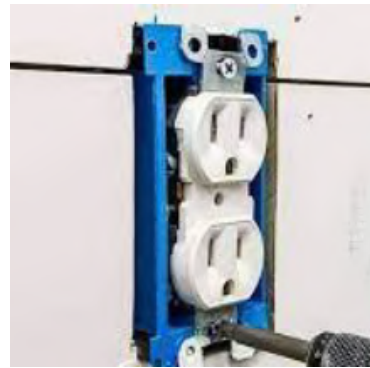


Electrical Box Extensions



Check with your electrician

and or local codes for your electrical boxes. If you are adding stone over existing outlets, you are likely required to add extensions to your outlets.



Cooktops and Ranges

Cooktops and ranges ***cannot be installed or in place*** when full height backsplash is being installed. Ranges should be moved out of the kitchen area by the client prior to WG arrival if there is an existing range in the kitchen. Cooktops cannot be in place either for full height backsplash installation. WG needs this space to install the stone backsplash.



Full Height Backsplash Behind Faucets

Faucets, R/Os, Air Gaps cannot be installed

before full height backsplash installation. Faucets, air gaps, R/Os must be removed or installed after full height backsplash is installed. The full height backsplash is heavy and there is limited space to fit it into your openings, so faucets cannot be installed prior to allow the room needed to install the stone.

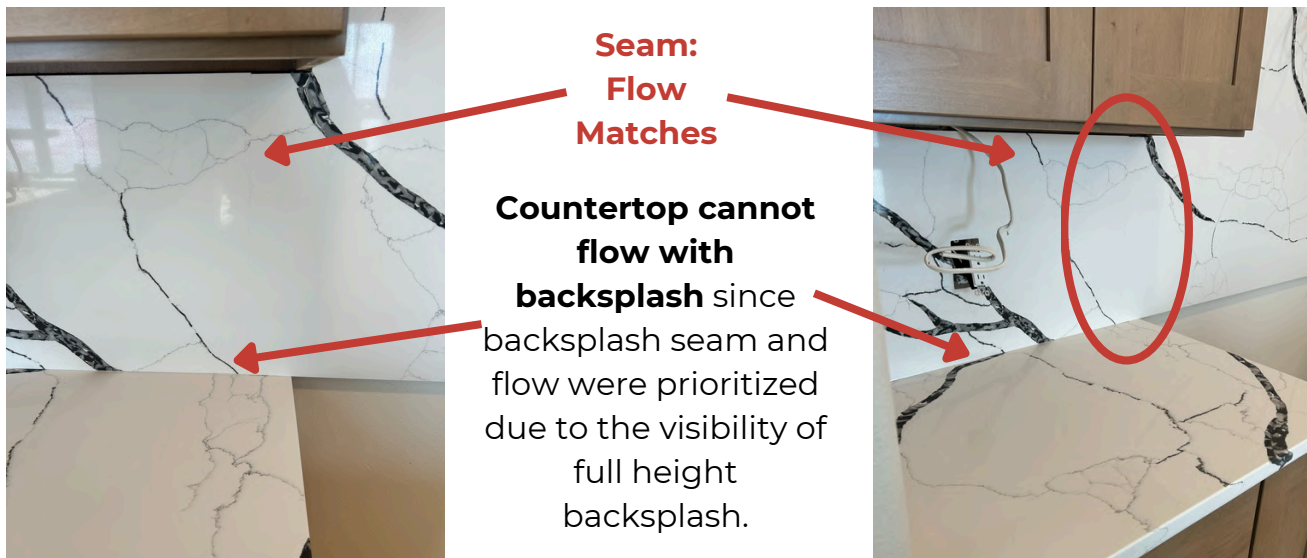


Exhaust Hoods

Exhaust hoods **cannot be secured to the stone**, they **must be mounted to studs** inside the wall.

Holes can be cut into the full height to allow for screws to be installed into the studs, mounting the exhaust hood directly to the wall, not the stone.





When purchasing full height backsplash, a paid digital layout is required. Sometimes additional material needs to be used to achieve a better vein or pattern flow. If we feel using additional material will provide a better flow and pattern results, we will contact you and discuss the options. We will inform you what the additional costs would be, allowing you to make the final decision. At corner intersections and seam locations of full height splash, generally clients want the full height to flow as best as possible from one wall to another. This means that the stone may not flow into the pattern of the countertop pieces because it is not possible. To allow full height wall pieces to flow into each other they will likely not flow into the countertop pattern.

Examples: Full height flow on wall vs full height flow to countertop

By focusing on the wall pieces of full height flowing together, resulted in a cohesive look. If we had focused on the countertop pieces flowing with the full height, the backsplash would not flow in the same pattern.



Directional Flow of Backsplash



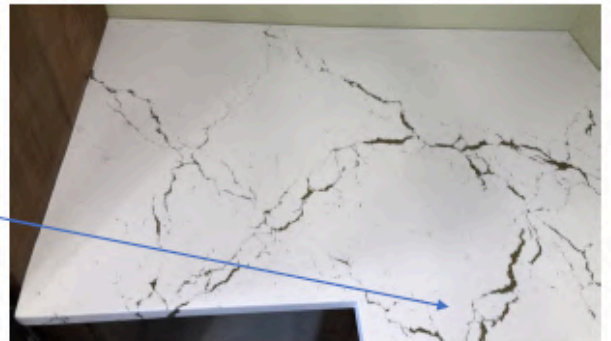
Because of the flow in a stone, it may not be possible to have the flow in the countertop match. This example shows the full height splash which had to be cut vertical from the stone while the countertops must be cut horizontal to keep the flow going over the length of the countertops while reducing seams.

Seams

- Additional seams may need to be added to keep flow moving in the correct direction for your countertops and backsplash.
- Seams should not be feared, Wisconsin Granite provides great seams. To get the flow you want, more seams could be required.
- Additionally, to control costs additional seams may be required so that additional slabs are not required for your project. To get the proper flow without additional seams, more material may need to be used, creating extra scrap, which will increase costs for your project.



Seams



Directional Flow Of Full Height Backsplash, Countertops , Alignment, Digital Layout, Extra Material Requirements & Expectations

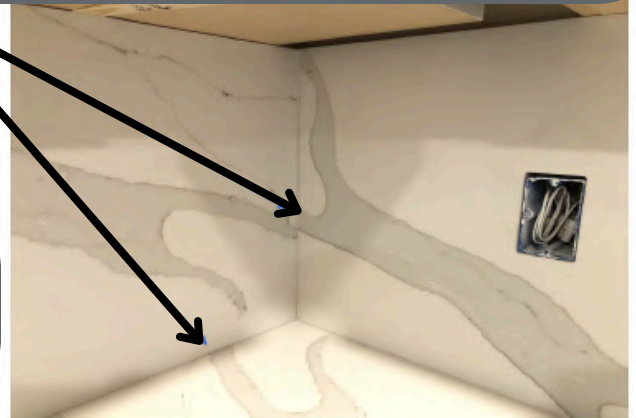
19



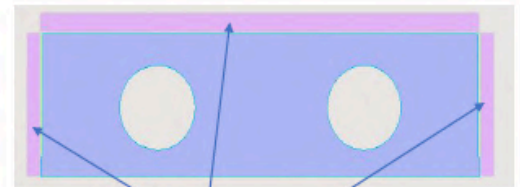
Stones with directional pattern are challenging to align, backsplash and countertops may not line up if there is a corner intersection of full height splash. Digital layouts are required, and extra charges may apply to consume more stone to allow pieces to be pulled from other stones to match flow.



Seam is located here, countertop flow matches



Flow of Directional Veined Stone with 4" Backsplash, Alignment of Pattern



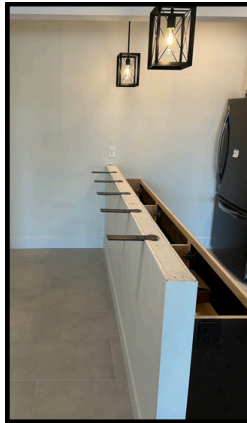
Backsplash is cut directly next to the countertop piece as shown.



Stone thickness is 3cm (1.25"). Backsplash is cut immediately next to the side and piece it will be installed on, but due to stone thickness of 1.25"-1.75" plus notches on the back of the countertop, the pattern (vein) will not align perfectly. This is due to the visible area where the pattern transitions from the countertop to the backsplash, which is 1.25" off from where the stone was cut in a flat orientation.

ALL ABOUT ●●● BRACKETS

WILL YOU NEED BRACKETS?

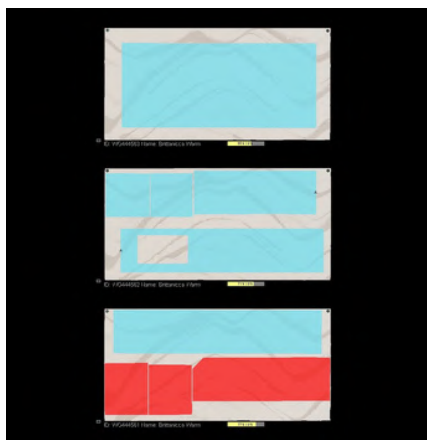


Depending on your project, your countertop may need brackets. Why? Per National Stone Institute Guidelines, Quartz countertops can have a 12-inch overhang without brackets or support, while granite can have a 10-inch overhang. In a raised bar, no more than a third of what's supported can extend out as an overhang without support. For example, if you have a 6-inch-wide knee wall, the maximum overhang without support can be 2 inches. Do you want a larger overhang than what is allowed? If so, talk with us today about adding brackets to your order to support your larger stone surface. We can also custom order special brackets for your project if our in-stock brackets do not work for your space.



DIGITAL LAYOUTS

Should you purchase a digital layout? It depends; if you have veined or patterned stone, Wisconsin Granite would suggest you buy a layout. You can view how your countertops will look installed by purchasing a digital layout.



LEARN
MORE



Laser Measure Done ✓ Now Programming Time!

After your laser measurement appointment, we will program your measurements to prepare for the digital layout.

Photos of Slabs!

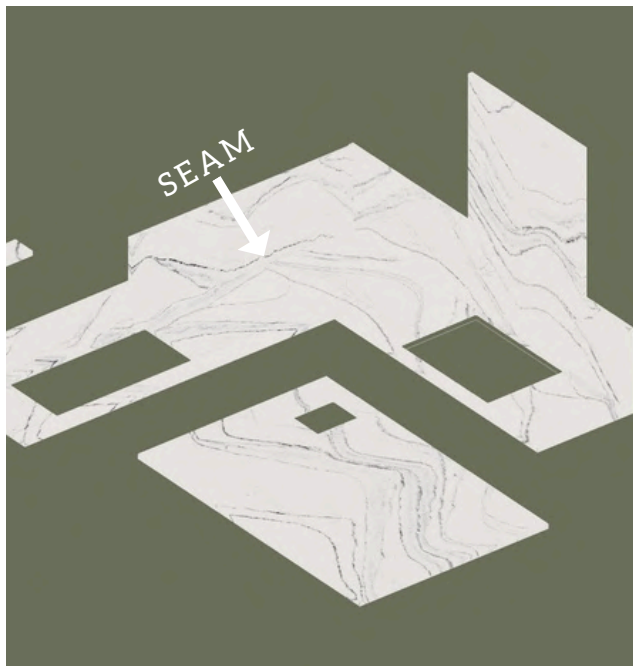
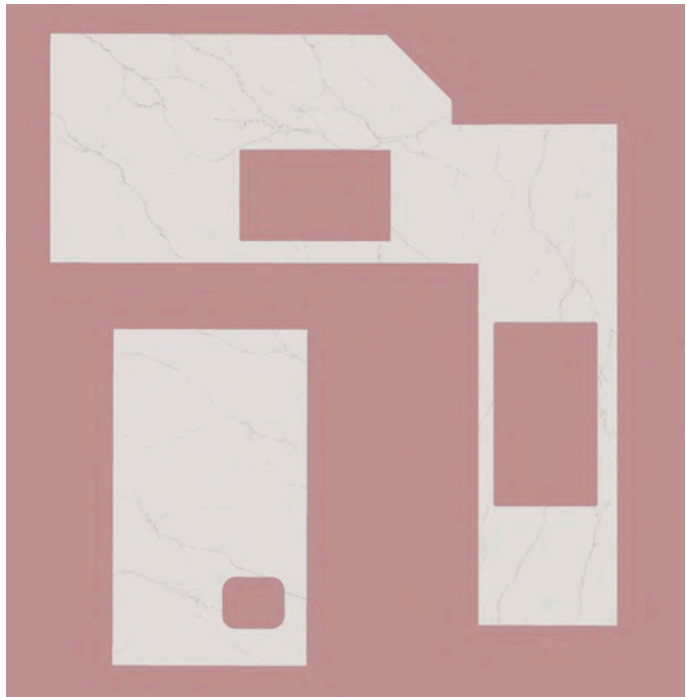
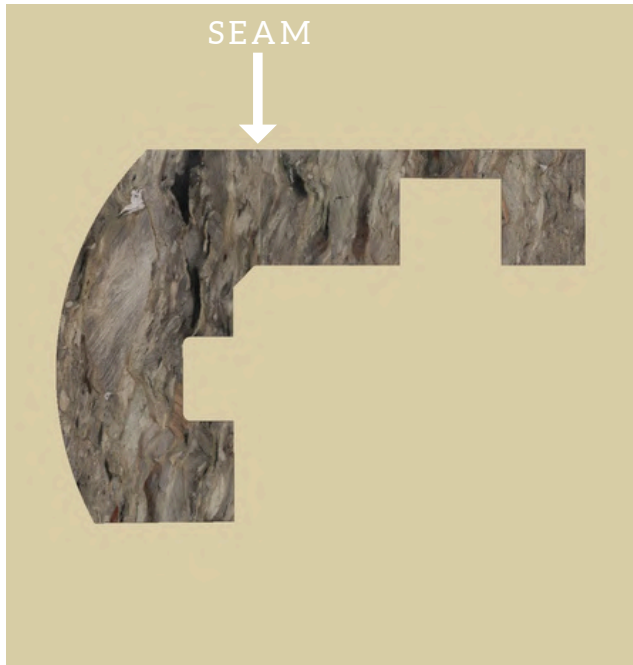
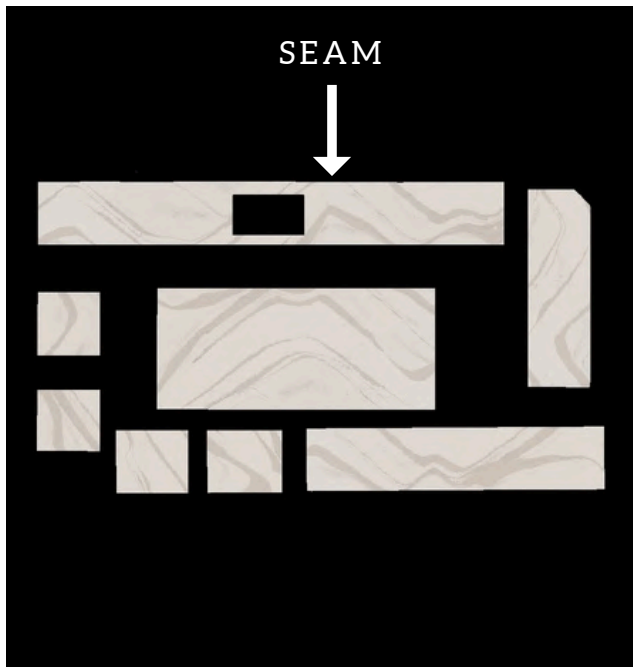
We will take photos of your chosen slabs on a large green screen. The slab photos are used to position your countertop pieces onto the slab, moving and shifting the pieces to create the best flow and design.*

Digital Layout Done! Email Sent!

We will email a digital picture of the completed digital layout. You will be able to review and approve the layout. We ask digital layouts to be approved within 24 hours of receiving them to keep your installation on schedule.*

*SIZE OF PIECES, THE SHAPE OF CABINETS, THE NUMBER OF SLABS PURCHASED, AND THE OVERALL FLOW OF STONE WILL AFFECT YOUR FINAL RESULT. FOR EXAMPLE, IN A U-SHAPED KITCHEN, THE FLOW MAY GO IN TWO DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. IN FULL-HEIGHT APPLICATIONS, THE THICKNESS OF THE STONE WILL NOT ALLOW VEINS AND FLOW TO MATCH PERFECTLY.





Have additional questions, ask us!

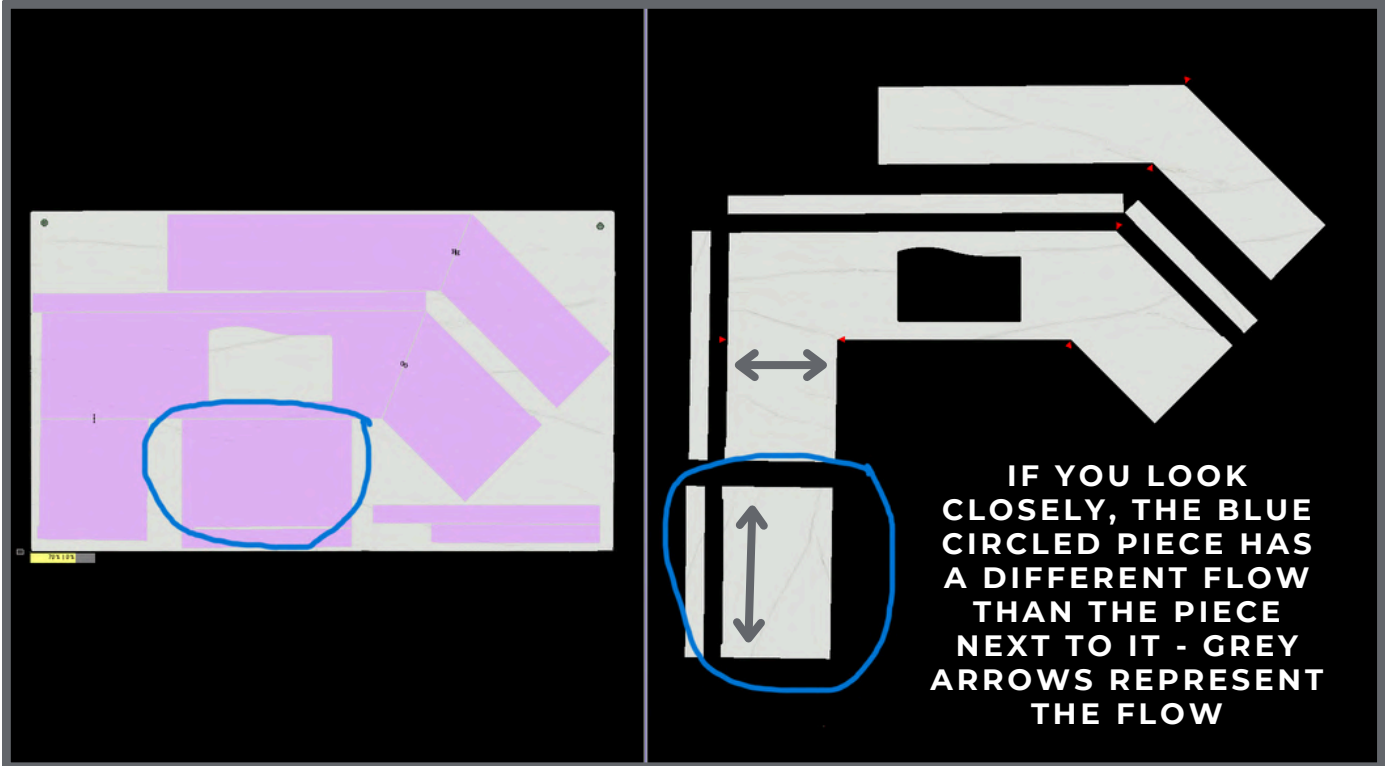


WISCONSIN GRANITE

QUARTZ | STONE | GRANITE | COUNTERTOPS + MORE

THE PATTERN AND FLOW OF YOUR STONE COUNTERTOPS

MAXIMIZING THE SLAB = FLOW OF STONE WILL CHANGE



**CAN I GET
THE FLOW
&
PATTERN
TO MATCH?**

If you want the flow of the veins and pattern to go in the same direction. We offer the option to add an additional slab to achieve a better flow. Your overall total price will increase with the request for an additional slab. If your order consist of a special order stone, the decision for an additional slab would need to be made at the time of sale order.

*****Flow and pattern consistency may not be possible due to slab size, shape, and size of kitchen.**

ALL ABOUT ...

FAUCETS - WILL IT FIT?

WILL YOU BE ABLE TO TURN THE HANDLE ON WITHOUT IT HITTING YOUR BACKSPLASH?



Did You Know?

Many kitchen and bar faucets have a handle to turn the water on, which rotates forward and sometimes backwards, as well. When selecting a faucet, it is important to consider the space you have behind your faucet. Especially, if your faucet handle rotates backwards in addition to forward.

This faucet did not fit correctly. There was not enough space. In addition, this customer was adding tile backsplash. *Resolution - angle faucet to allow full rotation of handle.

HELPFUL TIPS TO ENSURE FAUCET FITS AND HANDLE CAN BE FULLY USED

1. How does the water turn on? Does the handle only rotate forward to turn your water on? Does the handle also rotate backward? If your handle rotates backward, consider your spacing behind the faucet.
2. A standard setback (distance) to a faucet hole is 2 1/2" from the edge of the sink opening. The setback (distance) allows for clearance of the sink flange, which is under the stone (under-mounted sinks), and allows clearance for the flange nut that will hold the faucet to the countertop. Sometimes when the faucet hole needs to be closer to the sink, a sink flange nut extension can be purchased from your plumbing source to clear the flange of the sink.
3. Do you plan to have a tile backsplash? The average thickness of tile backsplash is 1/4"-3/8"; less common ones can be thicker. When the tile is applied, the mud(thin-set) applied to the stone to hold it onto the wall can add up to 1/8" of thickness in addition to the thickness of your tile.

**Next Page
More Tips
&
Images**

EXAMPLE IMAGES

Continued...helpful tips

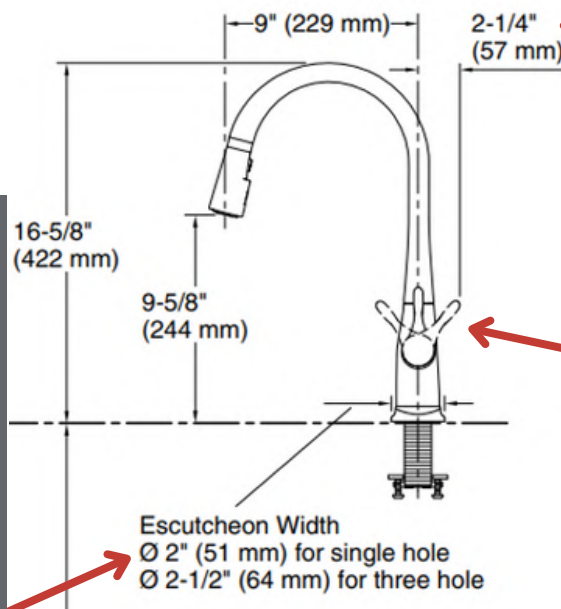
4. Do you plan to have a stone backsplash, the same stone being used for your countertops? Full-height, 4", or custom-sized stone backsplash will have an average thickness of 1.25". Based on the level of your wall (no wall is square or level) there will be high and low points. Stone backsplash is applied to your wall and will touch the high points. If seams are needed, they will be leveled to each piece of the stone. What does this mean? The actual thickness of your wall could be greater than 1.25" in certain spots based on your wall.
5. Many faucets allow the base with the handle assembly to rotate 360 degrees. This allows the handle to be placed on the left, right, or anywhere in between. If you have a tight space, the faucet handle can be angled towards the opening of the sink, allowing full use of the handle.
6. When selecting faucets, to ensure it fits, select a faucet where the handle only rotates forward. If you select a faucet that rotates forward and backward, be aware of the clearance you will need.

HOW TO DETERMINE THE SPACE YOU WILL NEED FOR YOUR FAUCET

LOOK AT THE SPEC DOCUMENT FOR YOUR FAUCET. MANY FAUCETS WILL DEFINE THE ROTATION AND SPACE NEEDED FOR THE FAUCET. SEE THE EXAMPLES OF A KOHLER AND DELTA FAUCET.

Faucet
Example 1

This detail shows the diameter for the base of the faucet that will be in contact with the stone. This model shows 2" for the diameter. The handle rotates 2.25" from center of the faucet. The center of the faucet is $\frac{1}{2}$ the flange defined at the bottom; this Kohler model is 2" so half of this is 1". The handle for this faucet rotates past the back of the faucet by 1.25"



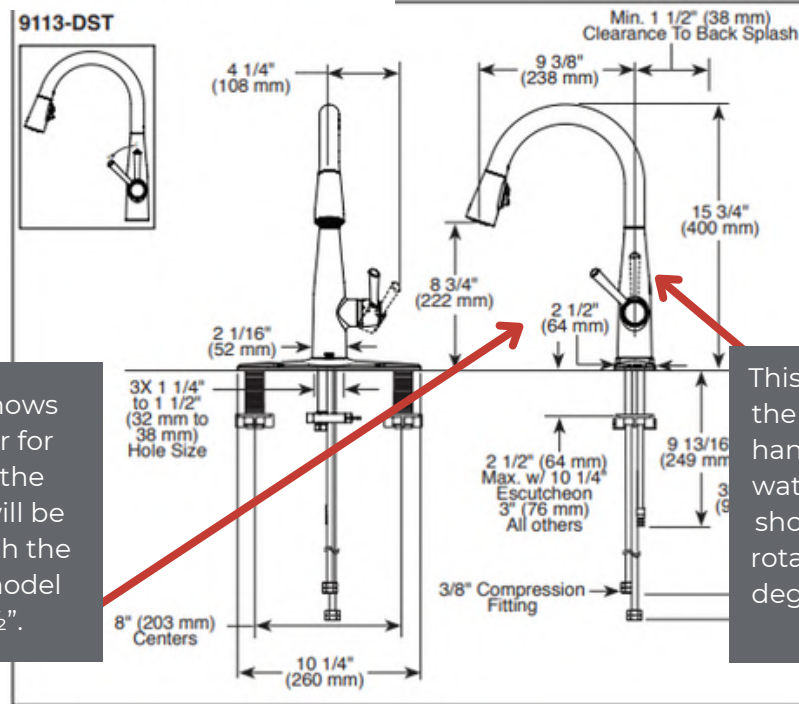
This faucet defines the minimum space needed behind the faucet is 2 1/4" from the center of the faucet to the wall (wall, tile, stone).

This faucet defines the rotation of the handle to turn the water on. This one shows the handle rotates forward and backward 2.25" from center

This faucet defines the minimum space needed behind the faucet is 1 1/2" from the center of the faucet to the wall (wall, tile, stone).

Faucet
Example 2

This detail shows the diameter for the base of the faucet that will be in contact with the stone. This model shows 2 1/2".



This faucet defines the rotation of the handle to turn the water on. This one shows the handle rotates forward 90 degrees only, NOT backward.

SEALING NATURAL STONE INFORMATION



SEALING NATURAL STONE

Wisconsin Granite has sealed your stone countertops, they are ready for use after 24 hours of drying. Sealing is strongly recommended for all-natural stone, especially newly installed granite, quartzite, marble, and all-natural stone. Be careful to select a high quality sealer to protect your natural stone. Sealing every 6-12 months will ensure your stone continues to look its best (follow the stone sealer instructions to determine how to seal and the frequency to seal). When to seal again? A good test, when water no longer beads, it is time to reseal. Some types of stone may require more frequent sealing such as marble, leathered or brushed granite, and all quartzite. We suggest sealing those types of stones at least every 6 months.

WHEN SHOULD I SEAL MY COUNTERTOP?

To get a general idea of how absorbent the stone is, place several drops of water on the surface of the stone and time how long it takes for the water to completely disappear. If the water disappears in under one minute, consider the stone very porous.

If it takes up to 3-4 minutes, consider it porous. If it takes more than 3-4 minutes, consider it slightly porous. This simple test will also give a good indication of the quantity of sealer needed to protect the entire area and when sealing is needed.

TYPES OF SEALING PRODUCTS:

There are two categories of sealing products: penetrating/impregnating and stone enhancer/coating sealer

Penetrating/Impregnating Stone Sealers are a no-sheen, natural look sealer that can be water-based or solvent-based and are good for interior and exterior applications. Most quality sealers of this type are rated to protect the stone for several years. A premium natural look penetrating/impregnating sealer is the standard choice on natural stone countertops.

Enhancer/Coating Stone Sealers are also a no-sheen, penetrating/impregnating sealer that is formulated to darken, enrich, and highlight the natural color and beauty of stone products. They will rejuvenate and improve the appearance of worn and weathered stone. However, they will also darken the color of seams and joints. They are, generally, suitable for interior and exterior use, and rated to protect the stone for several years.

Always reference manufacturers' literature for specific information on the duration of the sealer's protection and make sure that the sealer is applied in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Wisconsin Granite does not endorse a specific brand of sealer. However, we do suggest an impregnating stone sealer as mentioned above.

QUARTZ CARE INFORMATION

Wisconsin Granite provides this information to educate the customer. However, Wisconsin Granite is not liable for any damage that may occur to your countertop from any of the products mentioned in this document.

To Do:

- For every day cleaning use a soft sponge or dishcloth with warm water.
- For greasy clean-ups use a quartz daily cleaner, ordinary dish washing soap like Dawn with warm water mixture, or for very stubborn stains try soft scrub liquid gel (the green bottle). Too much cleaner or soap can cause build up on your countertop which will make the surface appear cloudy. After using cleaner, make sure to clean off counter with warm water to remove any cleaning residue. We suggest drying off your quartz countertops with a soft dry cloth.
- Always follow manufacturers instructions

Do Not:

- Never use red or green Scotch Brite on quartz as they contain aluminum oxide (the same abrasive in sandpaper) and may dull quartz finish.
- Do not use abrasive cleaning agents such as regular Comet and Ajax. If needed, Bar Keeper's Friend can be used, but lightly. Never scrub hard when cleaning with products, too much pressure can remove some of your quartz countertop finish. Also, do not leave cleaning products on your countertop for a long period of time. Use cleaning products to clean area and remove immediately with water.
- Though most common household cleaners have no effect on Quartz, never allow your quartz countertop to come in contact with drain cleaners, paint strippers or products containing Hydrofluoric acid, Methylene chloride, Trichloroethylene or any product with a very high or very low PH. These types of chemicals may etch or discolor the surface of quartz.
- There is no need to seal your quartz countertop. Sealers cannot penetrate quartz and remain on the surface. Eventually the sealer would start to wear off unevenly in high use areas causing the polish to appear inconsistent and affect the quartz appearance.
- Quartz is scorch resistant and under normal conditions is not affected. Always use a trivet or hot pad between quartz and any heat generating device including but not limited to slow cooker, deep fryers, hot pots and pans or electric skillets to reduce the risk of burn marks on your quartz. Sudden or rapid change of temperature or sustained heating, especially near edges, seams, and cut outs, may create enough thermal expansion energy to cause your countertop to crack.
- Avoid using metal knives and utensils directly on the countertop, as metal may scratch the quartz. When chopping vegetables, slicing bread or preparing other foods with sharp utensils, use a cutting board to prevent scratches.
- To remove grease from your quartz countertops, use a product recommended for stone care. Harsh cleansers should not be used to remove grease or other cooking stains. Gently scrape away hardened grease with a plastic knife before applying cleanser.
- Although quartz is resistant to stains from juice, wine, coffee and other food substances, it is best to wipe up spills immediately to prevent possible stains. Do not use metal utensils or knives directly on the quartz surface.

GRANITE, QUARTZITE, AND NATURAL STONE CARE INFORMATION



Wisconsin Granite provides this information to educate the customer. However, Wisconsin Granite is not liable for any damage that may occur to your countertop from any of the products mentioned in this document.

SEALING: Your new tops are sealed after installation by our install crew. We recommend resealing your natural stone countertops every 6-12 months, depending on the type of natural stone you selected. Leather or brushed finished stone (specifically light colored), marble, and quartzite (porous stone) need sealing at least every 6 months to resist stains. It is typically a simple process of applying the sealer and wiping it off after a few minutes. See information titled, sealing natural stone for more explanation on sealing.

NATURAL FISSURES: Fissures and pits are prevalent in natural stone and usually pose no structural anomalies. Fissures are often visible and can appear to look like "spider veins or cracks". Whenever possible, we try to avoid any large fissures by cutting around them. If it is necessary to reinforce a fissure, it is customary to fill it with resin and/or reinforce with steel rods on the backside. Once filled with resin, they are structurally stronger than the granite itself. Fissures and pits are natural characteristics of stone and are not viewed as defects.

KITCHEN COUNTERTOPS, FOOD PREPARATION AREAS, & VANITY TOPS: The stone is treated with a non-toxic penetrating sealer that is safe to use on food preparation surfaces. Frequent daily cleaning is recommended with just warm water, a daily stone cleaner, or mild soapy water, then rinsed with warm water. Too much cleaner and soap can cause buildup and make countertops look cloudy. It is recommended that water does not collect and sit on the surface for longer than necessary to avoid water spots and build up. We suggest drying your surface after wiping it down.

ABSORBENCY: Granite is less absorbent than most solid surfaces. It is commonly used as building material for high-rise buildings due to its ability to withstand gale force winds and rain. It is the primary product for kitchen countertops because of its ability to repel water, stay hygienic, and clean. Some quartzite stone can be more porous, making it more susceptible to stains and will require more frequent sealing and wiping down.

STAINS: Natural stone is generally resistant to stains provided any liquid spills are wiped away as quickly as possible. However, even water can soak into natural stone countertops and may leave a dark spot which will evaporate. Liquids that do not evaporate, such as oil, if left on the natural stone top, will seep in. Most stains (including oil stains) can be removed from the stone. Leather or brushed finished stone, quartzite, and marble need sealing more frequently to resist stains. We recommend you call us for professional stain removal.

SCRATCHES: Natural stone is highly scratch resistant and normal daily use will not have too great of an impact on it. We recommend that you use a cutting board to protect the blades on your kitchen knives and your countertops. Some quartzite is more susceptible to scratching than granite.

HEAT: Natural stone is heat resistant and can withstand some heat of cooking pots and pans without damage, however, over time, heat may dull the surface. We recommend the use of trivets under hot pots and pans. Do not set hot pans or pots directly on your countertop.

THINGS TO AVOID: Don't use vinegar, lemon juice or other cleaners containing acids or abrasives such as bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners, or tub & tile cleaners on any natural stone surface. Don't leave oil, coffee, wine, or dark pigmented liquids on your granite surface as these may eventually stain the stone.

MARBLE / DOLOMITE CARE INFORMATION

Wisconsin Granite provides this information to educate the customer. However, Wisconsin Granite is not liable for any damage that may occur to your countertop from any of the products mentioned in this document.

SEALING: Your new tops are sealed after installation. We recommend resealing your marble countertops every 6 months to resist stains. It is typically a simple process of applying the sealer and wiping it off after a few minutes. Sealing repels staining agents, but doesn't make marble stain proof. When water no longer beads, it is time to reseal. See the information document titled, Sealing Natural Stone for more information.

PROTECT: Vinegar, citrus, and tomato will etch marble; don't let them sit on the stone. Treat marble as you would a fine wood finish. Use coasters and cutting boards. Acidic products are common in the kitchen, including tomatoes, citrus fruits, juices, alcohol, and vinegar. Marble can also become stained; two of the biggest culprits are red wine and oil. Wipe up spills immediately.

CLEAN: Avoid using acidic or abrasive cleaners. Regularly use a soft cloth to wipe off marble. Clean stone surfaces with only water, a pH-neutral cleaner, stone soap, or a mild liquid dish washing detergent (such as Dawn) and warm water. Similar to any item cleaned in your home, an excessive concentration of cleaner or soap may leave a film and cause streaks. This can make your countertop look foggy. Follow manufacturer recommendations. Rinse the surface thoroughly after washing with a soap solution and dry with a soft cloth.

SPILLS: Blot the spill with a paper towel immediately. Don't wipe the area, it will spread the spill. Flush the area with water, mild soap, and rinse several times. Dry the area thoroughly with a soft cloth. Repeat as necessary.

SPOT TREAT: To remove stubborn stains, use a poultice paste. Spread it onto the stain, then cover with plastic wrap. Once it's dry (12 to 24 hours), scrape the paste off and wipe with a damp cloth. For deep-set stains, you may need to reapply paste.

ALL ABOUT ... RAISED BARS 30

UNDERSTAND WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU HAVE A COUNTERTOP WITH A RAISED BAR



WHY DO GAPS OCCUR WITH A RAISED BAR BACKSPLASH?

Unlevel cabinets and knee walls (half wall) are typical in construction. We install and level the lower cabinet countertop first. We level it left to right and front to back. Next we install and level the top raised bar countertop. Lastly, we install the raised bar backsplash. Gaps can occur if there is only 1 measure appointment.

I DON'T WANT A GAP!

We get it, you want as tight of a fit as possible. We offer the option to add a second measure/install visit to your order. A 2nd measure and install can be performed.

***** Raised Bar Installation: Faucet cannot be installed/Electric must be disconnected and off.**



WHY IS THE GAP UNDER THE LOWER PIECE?
We had to shim and raise the lower countertop to make the backsplash flush to the raised bar. This did not have a second measure/install.



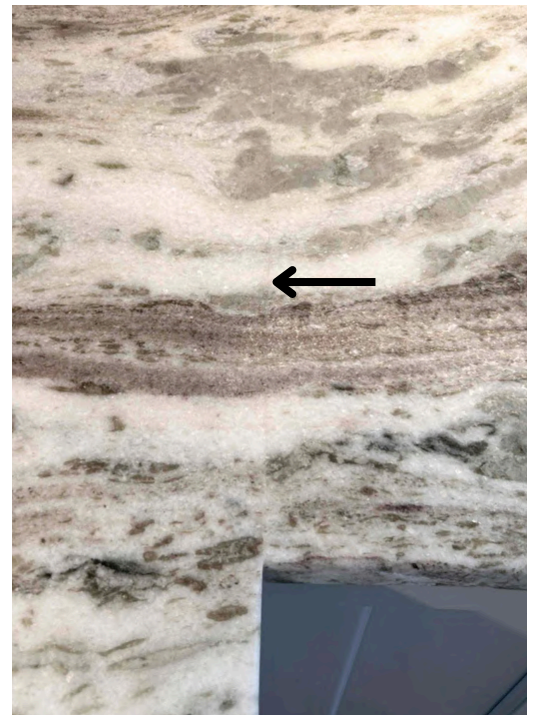
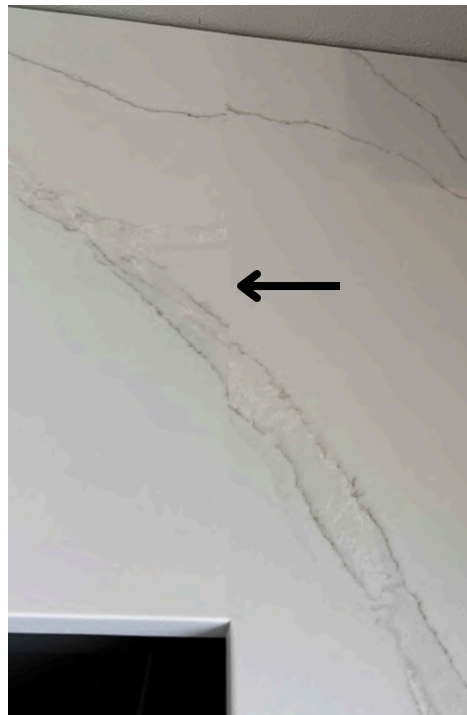
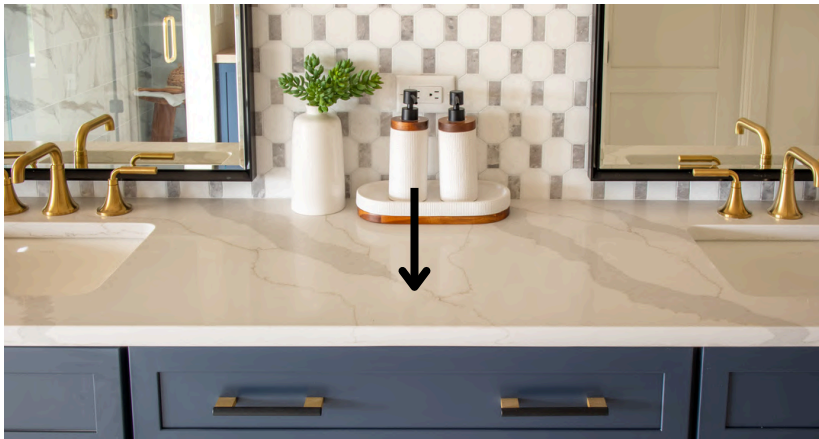
ALL ABOUT ●●● SEAMS

31

DON'T FEAR THE SEAM

You are not alone, we commonly hear from our customers, "Do I need a seam?" and "I don't want a seam."

We get it and understand your reservation about seams. We have seen our own share of bad seams. At Wisconsin Granite, we use several techniques and equipment to provide our customers with seams that make them ask us, "I thought you said there would be a seam, where is it?" Some material will seam together better than others, a lot will depend on the material and flow of the stone. A seam will not be invisible, however better than they used to be. Precision seams are possible, thanks to special techniques and the use of seaming equipment, allowing for the best seams possible. Along with a passionate team who believes in creating beautiful finishes for our customers. **We can honestly tell you, Don't Fear The Seam.**



Seams can vary and vein match is not a guarantee.

See section : Flow of Stone - will pattern match on page 23

*The epoxy used to join the seam can darken in time, we cannot guarantee that your seam will remain the same as it was at installation.

ALL ABOUT ... FARMHOUSE AND CAST IRON SINKS

32

FARMHOUSE AND CAST IRON SINKS MUST BE SET IN PLACE PRIOR TO MEASURE - NOT FULLY SECURED. LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO ENSURE YOUR FARMHOUSE AND CAST IRON SINKS ARE READY FOR QUARTZ OR NATURAL STONE COUNTERTOPS.



Build support structure for your farmhouse/cast iron sink into your cabinets. Make sure the sink sits at the correct height and depth where you will want it placed.



Undermount and drop-in cast iron sinks require support to be added to the sink cabinet. Cast iron sinks are very heavy and mounting brackets do not work. In our experience, support brackets provided from the sink manufactures are not strong enough and will sag or bow under the weight of the sink.



Make sure the sink is sitting just below the height of where the countertops will go, countertops extend over the edges of your sink. Use a level on the top and front face to make sure the sink is level and where you want it. Make sure your sink is level and to the proper height under the cabinet height.



Make sure the sink flanges on the left and right sit back tight to the cabinets and the gap from the top to the bottom of the flange is equal. Push the sink all the way in.

Sink properly leveled out with cabinet. Sinks can be raised up but lowering is challenging if the supports were built too high.



Do not connect plumbing prior to install. Sink should be placed into the position you would like and leveled in the front and on top of the cabinets, but not secured in place. Wisconsin Granite will need the ability to slide the sink out and push it back into position during the countertop installation.

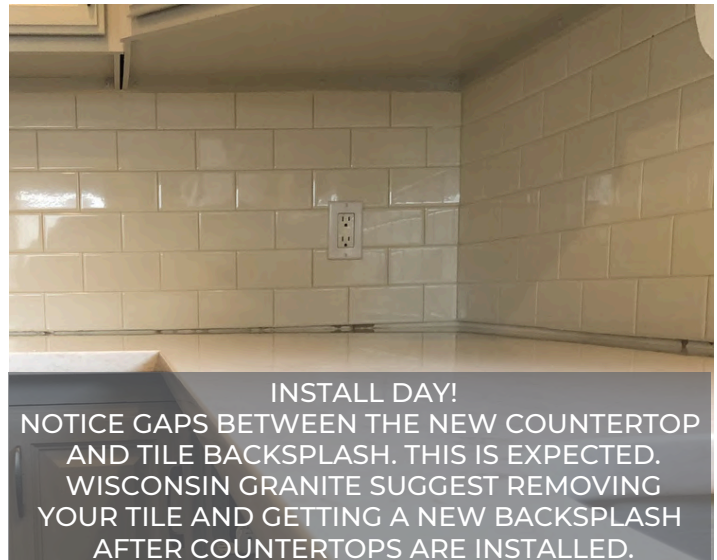
Plumbing cannot be connected, and the sink cannot be secured in place prior to install. No plumbing should be connected, and **sink must NOT be secured prior to install** of your countertops.



When your countertops are installed, the stone will overhang your farmhouse/cast iron sink and be glued to the sink. After installation of your countertops, wait 24 hours before connecting your plumbing to the sink, allowing the silicone to reach full cure. If installing a drop in cast iron sink, wait 24 hours before setting the sink into place, allowing the countertop glue to cure.



WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR CURRENT TILE BACKSPLASH



A frequently asked question we receive:

"Can I keep my tile backsplash and just get new countertops?"

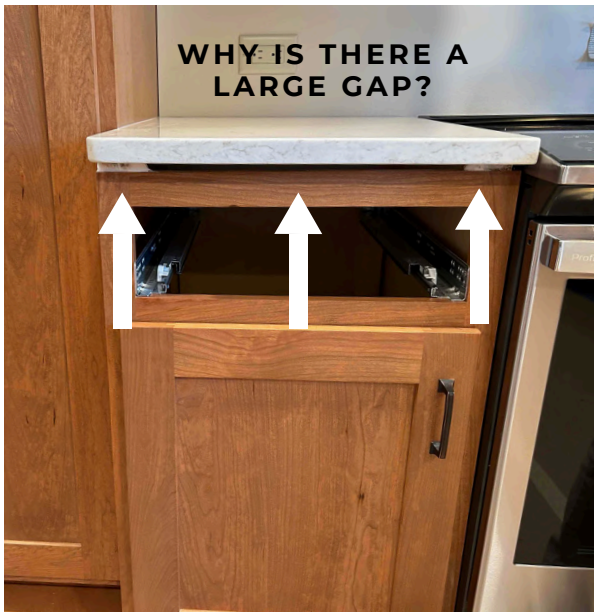
Yes, you can BUT take a moment to understand what to expect.

- Your current countertops are likely shimmed, which would cause the installation of quartz or natural stone not to be flush with your existing tile backsplash, causing gaps.
- Your current countertop thickness differs from your new quartz or natural stone thickness, which would cause gapping and potentially not allow the new stone to fit in the space between your cabinet and tile backsplash. If there is not enough room between your cabinet and tile, your new countertops may not get installed on your scheduled date, and you would need to remove the tile prior to the installation. Sometimes this may not be known until we begin to install the new stone.
- Keeping your tile may also result in Wisconsin Granite not being able to level the countertop correctly if there is not enough room between the existing tile and your new countertop.
- Quartz and Natural Stone have to be level; we cannot install unlevel to line up with your tile backsplash.
- We cannot cut the backsplash to line up with your tile.

IF YOU DECIDE TO KEEP YOUR TILE, WE HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FILLING THE GAPPED SPACES. INSTALL A TILE QUARTER ROUND PIECE TO COVER AND EVEN OUT THE GAP OR FILL THE GAP WITH TILE GROUT OR SILICONE GROUT. WISCONSIN GRANITE DOES NOT PROVIDE A SERVICE FOR COVERING THE GAPPED SPACES, THE CUSTOMER WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE TO HANDLE.

UNLEVEL CABINETS

UNDERSTAND WHAT TO EXPECT IF UNLEVEL CABINETS ARE NOT LEVELED PRIOR TO YOUR COUNTERTOP INSTALLATION



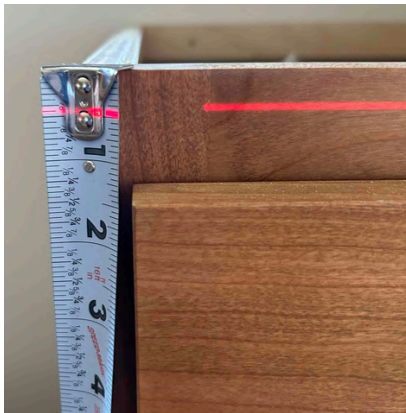
A large gap between your countertop and cabinet can occur if your cabinets are unlevel. Shimming up to a 1/4" is common and frequently done to level countertops. The photo displayed represents a larger gap (more than 1/4") caused by unlevel cabinets. Wisconsin Granite will inform you if your cabinets are unlevel, giving you time to level them prior to your installation appointment. We cannot install seamed or L-shaped countertop pieces if cabinets are unlevel by more than 3/8", unless your countertop piece is a straight run and standard depth. If your countertops are 3/8" unlevel and you have either a seamed or L-shaped countertop piece, your countertops will need to be leveled prior to installation. Your install date may need to be moved to the next available time, if leveling your countertops cannot be achieved prior to your installation date.

***Per The National Stone Institute guidelines, cabinets should be leveled to 1/8" over 10 feet.**



WHY ARE SOME GAPS LARGER THAN OTHERS?

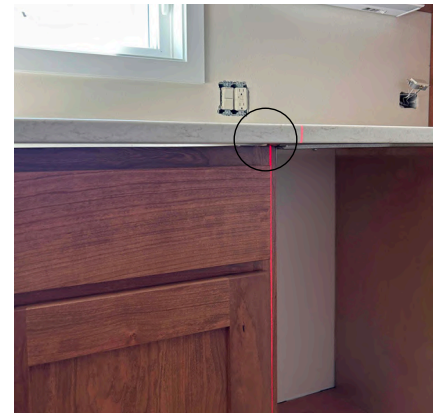
When we install your countertops, we have to level them off of the highest cabinet. As the cabinets drop in height and become more unlevel, the countertop will have a larger gap.



At measure - laser shows unlevel cabinets greater than 1/4"



Countertop set on highest cabinet, sitting flush on cabinet - no shims



**Cabinet lower than starting point
1 shim needed**



**Continuation of cabinets unlevel
3 shims used**



Countertop sitting on shims to level with highest cabinet



Lowest cabinet and most unlevel from the highest cabinet - several shims needed

Accidents happen, but you don't need to be stuck with expensive repairs; we offer the Granite Gold Protection Plan.



What's Covered?

Stone Types:

- Granite
- Quartz
- Quartzite
- Marble
- Slate
- Soapstone

Household Stains:

- Food and Beverage
- Oil
- Cosmetics
- Rust
- Human and pet bodily fluids and waste

*Not including perspiration, hair oils, or body oils

Accidental Damage:

- Chipping, cracking, pitting, and scratches
- Etching (dulling of surfaces)
- Hard water marks and deposits
- Caulking, grout and joint expansion

**Easily avoid the sticker shock of countertop repairs.
Just one repair could be \$500 or more!**

Granite Gold® Countertop Protection Plan covers what manufacturer warranties won't - the most common, accidental damages. For one low price, your countertop is protected for 5 or 10 years.

No additional charges or fees and no limits on claims when accidents happen - Granite Gold® will take care of the repairs for you.

Not Covered: Shower, Tub Decks, Hearth, Fireplace

5-YEAR

\$399

10-YEAR

\$599

Requesting Service Is Simple

1. File a claim online or by phone within 30 days of when damage occurred. Claims filed through Granite Gold® not Wisconsin Granite.
2. Granite Gold® team will process your claim and schedule an appointment for repair.
3. A Granite Gold® authorized stone technician will repair the damage at no additional cost to you.

Sign Up Required Prior to Installation

WATERFALLS

UNDERSTAND WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU HAVE SELECTED A WATERFALL EDGE



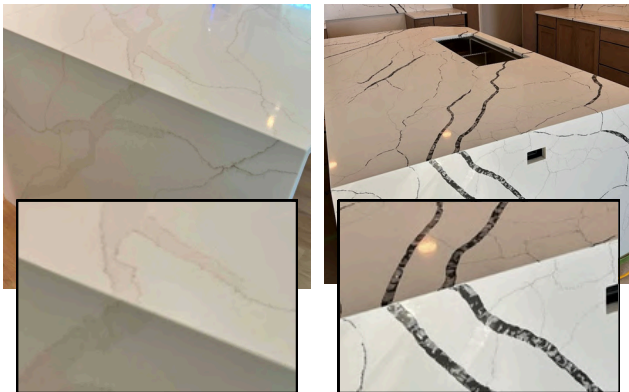
**EXAMPLES OF
BACKSIDE NOT POLISHED**



**EXAMPLES OF WATERFALL EDGE
CUT FROM THE SAME SLAB**



**EXAMPLES OF WATERFALL EDGE
CUT FROM A 2ND SLAB**



**EXAMPLE OF
WATERFALL EDGE
INSTALLED TO
SUBFLOOR/NOT LVP
NOTICE 1/4 ROUND
TO COVER GAPS**



If you have selected or are considering a waterfall edge, it is important to understand what to expect and how to have a successful installation. Common questions and answers:

Will the backside of the waterfall edge be polished?

No, we cannot polish the backside of the waterfall to match the finish of the top. Some natural stone will have fiberglass backing to help support the stone, we can only remove a few inches of the fiberglass. Stone with fiberglass backing should have a cabinet panel or built structure to cover the backside.

Will the veins/pattern flow seamlessly on both sides?

No, typically, a 2-sided waterfall will require 2 slabs. When cutting the waterfall edge from the same slab as the top, we can achieve a better flow. You will still see some variation due to the blade width. When we cut from another slab, the flow will not be as consistent. If you want a better match, an additional slab would need to be added to your job, increasing the overall cost to you. Let us know if you would like to discuss this option. If your stone is a special order, this would need to be decided at the time of the sale order.

Can a waterfall edge be placed on top of LVP floating floor?

No, stone waterfall edges are too heavy to place directly on your LVP floating floor. The floor can fail if a heavy object, such as the waterfall edge is placed on the floor. If you have LVP flooring, the waterfall edge will need to be installed prior to your flooring (sitting directly on your subfloor). A piece of 1/4 round trim can be added around the waterfall piece where the LVP flooring gaps show.

Why does a waterfall edge require 2 installs?

Two installs will help achieve a better fit. We cut the waterfall pieces at the same time as your countertops, however, we add a few inches to the length. After your countertop installation, we measure the distance from the countertop to the floor, then cut the pieces down in our fabrication shop to match the measurement and install at a later date. If we installed at the same time, the lengths of the waterfall pieces may be incorrect, since shimming and leveling of your countertops will need to occur during installation.

**EXAMPLES OF
CABINET PANELS
USED TO COVER
THE BACKSIDE OF
THE WATERFALL
UNFINISHED
BACKSIDE**





Thank You

For viewing The Wisconsin Granite Resource Guide

Questions, please reach out: 608-838-4333