

## Granite Countertop Facts

- Granite can be radioactive. While health physicists and radiation experts agree that most granite countertops emit radiation and radon at extremely low levels, some new exotic varieties some granites have been reported to have higher radioactivity thereby raising some concerns about their safety. Be sure that you have your slab tested before purchasing and installing granite.
- Granite is processed with polyester/epoxy resins to fill in the pits and cracks before it is polished and sealed with silicone.
- Lighter colours are more maintenance than darker colours as they are less dense and are more likely to stain. They must be sealed more often.
- Putting hot pots on granite can cause damage to the sealer, resin, polish and sometimes even the granite. Almost all granite has a polyester resin applied during processing and excessive heat can cause damage to the sealer and resin, leading to vulnerable spots for stains.
- Scouring pads and harsh cleansers will scuff up the polish which is expensive and not easy to fix.
- Spills must be wiped up immediately so that high staining foods like those with an acidic base and fatty foods don't stain.
- While granite itself can take hot temperatures, there can be unseen fissures that can open up, fracturing the slab when granite experiences thermal shock (a quick change of temperature)
- Granite and other stone countertops are cold.
- To be safe, you should always use a trivet under your pots, pans and over dishes.

Sources: New York Times  
Wikipedia  
The Carpenter Shop.net