

# Industry Standards

## STONE

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- All communication MUST be documented in writing
- All natural stones are unique. Some have pits, fissures, cracks, corrosive minerals, or other features that you may find objectionable. These should be acknowledged and pointed out to you when samples and/or slabs are being viewed. Some of these features may become more or less noticeable when the position (vertical or horizontal) of the slab is changed, or when the lighting intensity is changed.
- Cabinet installation, plumbing rough-in, electrical rough-in, etc. are usually required to be completed by you, or by the subcontractors coordinated by yourself.
- Granite is heavy, please clear a path from your driveway to your desired space so that installation crews can navigate through your home easily. Please have walkways free of ice, snow, and clutter.
- Existing countertops should be removed before installation. If removing yourself, please note: existing cabinets should be plumb and level 1/8" when measured across a 10' distance, prior to installation.
- Shop drawings will be received and approved per designer/homeowner prior to the start of fabrication (this typically occurs after measure).
- Stone slab layout can be done with the homeowner. They must understand that the pricing may change if they decide to have the stone cut in a certain way that causes unnecessary waste or additional material.
- Cabinets and any trim that affects the overall size of the stone countertops must be permanently installed in their final position prior to field measuring and cannot be moved and/or changed once a template has occurred.
- Wall surfaces receiving stone backsplashes must be plumb and within 1/8" of a true plane when measured across a 10' distance. Installing outside of these tolerances will require excessive shim spaces and wide regions of filler material. Any necessary aesthetic improvements to conceal this condition will be your responsibility.
- Fragile stone varieties and/or heavy sinks may require the use of either a sub-top or additional framing to support the weight.
- Sink(s), plumbing fixtures, appliances, and electrical outlets are required to be onsite during the countertop measure. The homeowner or designer must also be present to sign off. During template, is the last time to make any necessary changes. Once a template is complete, a change cannot be made.
- Seam placements are at the fabricator's discretion and may be changed from the measure tech's suggestion. It's important to understand the importance of seam placement and the overall appearance of the stone with seams.

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- The length of spanning between supports shall be limited to 2' for 3/4" thickness and 3' for 1- 1/4" thickness
- In designs where the countertop cantilevered or overhanging supports, it shall be limited to 6" for 3/4" thickness and 10" for 1-1/4" thickness. In no case, may the cantilevered portion represent more than 1/3 of the width of the countertop. If you exceed these dimensions, additional corbelled supports will be required. Please note: Fragile stones may require corbelled supports for cantilevers that are less than those specified. It will be at the templaters/fabricator's discretion. Some quartz products are able to go 12" without additional supports.
- Edge profiles with narrow projections and sharp corners are more susceptible to chipping than those with a larger curved silhouette
- Partial backsplashes usually range from 4" to 8" and will be the same thickness as your top. Using a different thickness requires using stone slabs sawn from two different blocks and color variation can be pronounced.
- The stone countertops are secured to the substrate with a non-staining adhesive. Common construction adhesives or silicone sealants are the most popular.
- Filling the seams is normally completed prior to final positioning of the stone units, allowing the filler material to extrude out of the joint as the stones are pulled into alignment.
- Joint (seam) widths between two stones should equal 1/16", with a tolerance of (+/-) 1/64". If a larger joint has been specified, it is to be (+/-) 25% of the normal joint width. Joint width does not include the dimension of an arris (a small chamfer approx. 1/16" x 1/16"). When an arris is used, the joint width may be greater than the actual width due to seam filler occupying the width of the arris.
- Allowable lippage due to slab warp = 1/32" max lippage at the center of the countertop.
- The thickness of stone slabs shall not vary by more than 1/8."
- Visible joints between stone and other material (cabinetry, wallboard, etc.) shall be 1/8", with a tolerance of (+/-) 1/16" and filled with a soft, elastic material. The exception of this would be between a full height splash and underside of the cabinet, which is to be 1/4" with a tolerance of (+/-) 1/8."
- Some stones with resin can be vulnerable to color change or surface degradation when exposed to ultraviolet light (most not suitable to exterior applications).

*Due to variations in the fabrication equipment and stock availability, these tolerances may not be achievable, or in some cases, closer tolerances may be achievable. Unless otherwise agreed upon a different tolerance, the tolerances listed here are acceptable guidelines*