

Common Myths about Soapstone Countertops

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Date : May 18, 2020

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You first noticed the beautiful countertop in a high-end home center or designer showroom. The sophisticated and natural material impressed with a texture and color that was unquestionably natural but something you had never seen before.

When you find out that it's soapstone, you're surprised. Isn't that the material used for carving? If so, how can it be durable enough for a countertop? Actually, that is just one of the myths that we're trying to dispel by giving you the following practical information.

Myth #1: Soapstone is too soft for countertops.

The soapstone that you were thinking of originally, the *artistic* variety, is indeed used for carving because of its softness. However, soapstone countertops are fashioned from the *architectural* version, which is harder and more durable.

It is true that the soapstone is softer than more common countertop choices as granite or marble. As such, it does scratch. But because of its dense composition and forgiving finish, minor blemishes seem to disappear on their own and deeper gashes can be sanded out. A new coat of oil refreshes the surface and is recommended periodically.

An advantage of soapstone over other materials is that it ages well and acquires a distinct patina over time. Many homeowners prefer to leave any dents and scratches untouched because they add to the character of the countertop. Another advantage is burn and resistance to stains. This contrasts with marble and granite, which can stain easily.

Myth #2: Soapstone absorbs liquids and odors, making it unsafe for food prep.

Soapstone, like wood, are actually dense enough to prevent much absorption. In fact, soapstone has been used in labs for decades because it remains impervious to chemicals that penetrate other materials easily. In addition, the mineral oil finish that we use on our countertops not only protect the surface but is also considered safe for food preparation.

Myth #3: Soapstone comes in only one color.

Depending on whether it is quarried in the US, India, or Brazil, natural soapstone comes in black, muted gray or gray with tinges of blue or green. The material often contains veins of lighter or darker shades mixed in. When treated with mineral oil, the soapstone background turns almost black with the random veins offering a striking contrast.

When choosing a suitable color for your soapstone countertop, it is best to ignore the names given to it in brochures and catalogs. They lack consistency because they are created by the suppliers. Instead, come directly to our showroom to look at the slabs that we have in stock. You can then pick the proper color for your kitchen without worrying about its name.