

Triangle

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# MYTH BUSTER: STONE EDITION

By Sunny Surana



Misconceptions are swirling around the choice of natural stone countertops.

When investing in what may be a once-in-a-lifetime purchase, it is important to separate myth from fact, which we at CRS Marble & Granite believe helps to make an informed buying decision.

First, a couple of generalizations about natural stones need to be clarified. Many believe all natural stones are the same. While it is true they are all formed within the earth, the method in which they develop affects their porosity, hardness, and other natural characteristics. Marble, for example, is a metamorphic rock formed when heat and pressure are applied to limestone. Alternatively, granite is an igneous rock formed when molten rock cools below the earth's surface. Quartzite is metamorphic and forms when high heat and pressure are applied to sandstone. These variations affect hardness. On the Mohs' scale of hardness, marble ranks in the 3 to 5 range, which is relatively soft





Raleigh, NC Showroom

compared to other choices; granite is harder at 6 to 6.5; and quartzite is the toughest at a level 7.

Also, the belief that all natural stones harbor bacteria is false. Using a routine disinfectant such as mild dishwashing soap and warm water is all it takes to keep the countertops clean and germ-free, the same as engineered stone like quartz.

Some myths are prevalent for specific stones.

**Marble**

*Myth:* Marble cannot be used in the kitchen because it easily etches.

*Fact:* While it's true acidic substances such as citrus juice can etch some marble, it depends on the type of marble. Some are harder and are more etch resistant. Honing the surface of the stone also helps to mitigate the appearance of any etching that may occur. Plus, marble is an excellent, cool work surface for bakers. Choose from CRS' inventory of sixty marble colors.

**Granite**

*Myth:* Granite requires much maintenance to keep its sealed surface intact.

*Fact:* When installed, granite is already sealed from the fabricator. Most stones provided by CRS are factory sealed with top-of-the-line equipment and never need to be polished again. Routine maintenance such as cleaning with warm water and soap or a non-abrasive bottled granite cleaner is all that is needed. If the stone does require a quick polishing or resealing, the products are affordable and available at granite retailers or big box home repair stores.



**Quartzite**

*Myth:* Quartzite is a manmade stone like quartz.

*Fact:* Quartzite is one-hundred percent natural and formed in the earth, just like marble and granite. It is the hardest natural stone of the three, making it a very durable choice. It can mimic the look of marble but has a higher endurance to etching and holds up if heavy objects are dropped on it.

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**—SUNNY SURANA**

The best way to choose natural stone is to find a knowledgeable retailer who carries a wide array of all types of stones and who is not pushing one brand over another. At CRS, our customers use the Countertop Testing area and knowledgeable design staff to find the stone that matches their lifestyle and the look they crave.◆

**SUNNY SURANA** is president of **CRS MARBLE & GRANITE**. For more information, visit [CRSGRANITE.COM](http://CRSGRANITE.COM) or call **919-784-9282**.