



# StoneMark

Granite and Quartz Countertops



## Top 8 Tips To Assure You Get Your Dream Countertop

**StoneMark Granite and Quartz Countertops**

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## Top 8 Tips To Assure You Get Your Dream Countertop

### Tip #1: Decide On Your Design Aesthetic

When selecting kitchen countertops, you should have some idea of how you want your dream kitchen to look. The overall aesthetic you are trying to achieve will impact the countertop material you choose for your kitchen. Remember, your countertops should set the tone for your entire kitchen design – some give a kitchen a traditional look, whereas others can provide a contemporary vibe. Deciding on the look will make your selection much easier.

### Tip # 2: Choose a Stone That Matches Your Lifestyle

With a large variety of kitchen countertop materials available, it's easy to find options better suited for certain lifestyles than others. An active home with plenty of spills and accidents in the kitchen would not be well-suited to a white marble countertop. Some kitchen countertop materials are more porous or more prone to cracks and chips, so consider how your kitchen is used now or how you may use it in the future. Our stone specialists will be happy to help explain the nuances of different materials, or you can check out the information available on our website at <https://stonemarkgranite.com/natural-stone-available-in-louisville-ky>

### Tip #3: Consider Maintenance

Some kitchen countertops do require more maintenance and upkeep than others. Even though marble and granite countertops can be sealed, marble, in particular, can still etch, while some other kitchen countertop materials, like quartz, are much more low-maintenance. Our website has all the details on how to maintain each type of stone. Check it out at <https://stonemarkgranite.com>, where you can select your stone preference then read all the maintenance details.

### Tip #4: Decide On A Budget

Kitchen countertops can be a significant expense, so it is best to be realistic when setting a budget. While granite is typically less expensive than marble or quartz, they all come in a range of price points, with quartz and granite having the widest range. First, decide which materials might best suit your lifestyle, then reach out and talk to an expert to find the perfect kitchen countertops for your budget. Our stone experts will help you work with your chosen investment to find high-quality kitchen countertop materials that will last for many years.

### Tip #5: Measure and Make A Sketch Of Your Kitchen Countertops

We've made measuring for your new countertops easy! On page four, we have included a handy guide for sketching your current kitchen countertops and graph paper on page five to create your drawing. The basic process involves measuring the various lengths of your existing tops from one end to the other, and in some cases, checking their widths. All you need is our graph paper, a pencil, and a measuring tape. Being exact isn't critical; just do your best!

### Tip #6: Decide On A Sink And An Edge

There are two popular ways to mount your kitchen sink to your countertops: under-mounted sinks and over-mounted sinks. When choosing your kitchen countertops, keep in mind the style of sink you want for your dream kitchen. The sink's lip is mounted below the kitchen countertop with under-mounted sinks to create a continuous flow from your kitchen countertop to your sink. This edge can make cleaning up simpler. Over-mount, or drop-in, sinks have edges that are placed over the kitchen countertop.

Also, decide on the edge profile that fits your dream kitchen. Some can cost extra, so make sure you enquire about edges when getting your pricing. Our website contains a page dedicated to sinks and edges, so be sure to check it out - <https://stonemarkgranite.com/sinks-and-edge-options-for-granite-countertops>

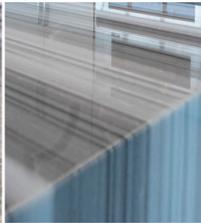
### Tip #7: Consider Backsplash Options

Your backsplash design is equally as important as your countertop. A standard 4" backsplash is friendly on your budget but may not fully protect your walls if you cook a lot. Tile looks great, but styles change every few years and may leave your kitchen looking dated sooner than you would like. Full height backsplash protects your walls and provides a timeless look.

### Tip #8: Talk to an Expert

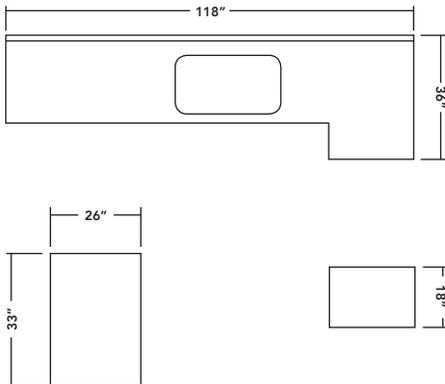
Talking to an expert will make choosing your kitchen countertops more straightforward. You can get all your questions answered, plus ask other questions about items such as electrical and plumbing. Our stone experts have designed dream home kitchen countertops for more than 18 years and installed over 20,000+ countertops in Louisville, KY, and surrounding areas. To learn more about StoneMark, check out our Prestige Services on page six or reach out to one of our experts at StoneMark at 502.315-5110 or email us [Info@stonemarkgranite.com](mailto:Info@stonemarkgranite.com).

## Kitchen Countertop Comparison Chart

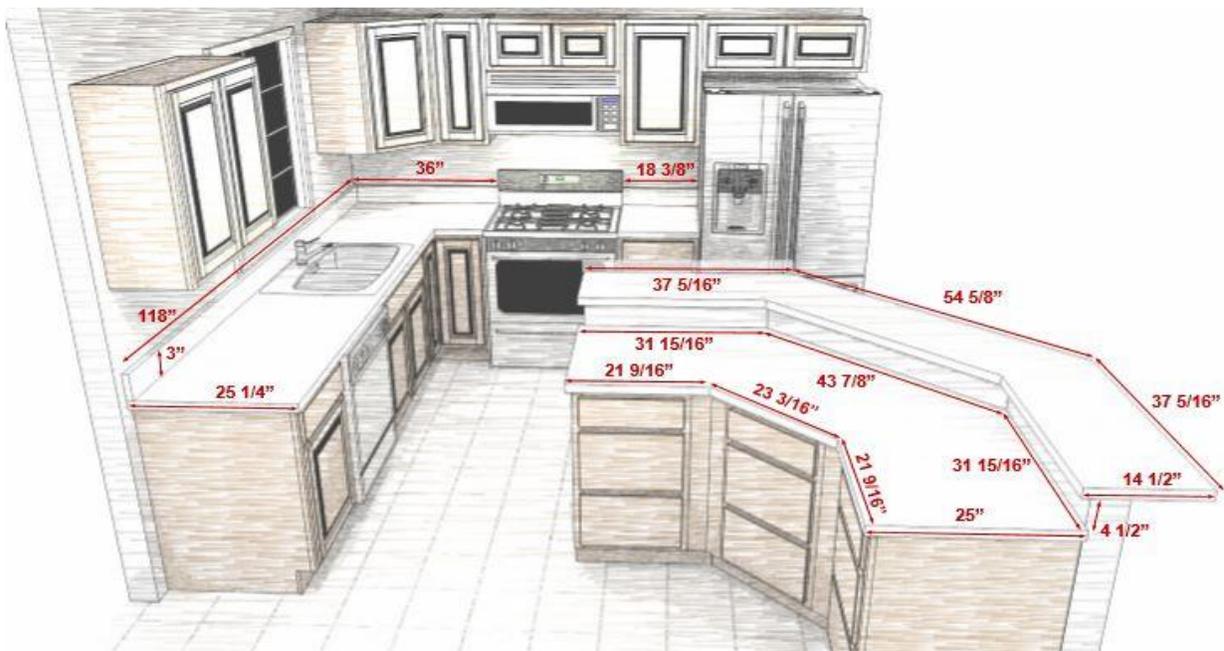
	Quartz	Granite	Marble	Quartzite	Soapstone	Porcelain
<b>Price</b>	\$\$ - \$\$\$\$	\$ - \$\$\$\$	\$ - \$\$\$\$	\$\$\$ - \$\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$ - \$\$\$\$	\$\$\$ - \$\$\$\$\$
<b>Durability</b>	Heat Resistant But Can Scorch. Scratch Resistant. Unaffected by Most Chemicals.	Highly Heat and Scratch Resistant. Unaffected by Harsh Chemicals.	Highly Heat Resistant. Can Scratch. Affected by Harsh Chemicals.	Highly Heat and Scratch Resistant. Unaffected by Harsh Chemicals.	Highly Heat Resistant. Unaffected by Harsh Chemicals. Can Scratch.	Highly Heat and Scratch Resistant. Unaffected by Harsh Chemicals.
<b>Construction</b>	Manufactured from natural quartz and polyester resin.	Genuine Natural Stone	Genuine Natural Stone	Genuine Natural Stone	Genuine Natural Stone	Manufactured from a mix of glass, ceramic and other materials.
<b>Easily Cleaned &amp; Maintained?</b>	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
<b>Can you set a hot pan on surface without damage?</b>	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Should you expect scratches and regular maintenance?</b>	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
<b>Is it easy to find in a wide range of colors?</b>	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
						

## Measuring Your Countertop

Measuring for your new countertop does **NOT** have to be complicated! The basic process involves measuring the various lengths of your existing tops from one end to the other, and in some cases checking their widths (front to back, if they are wider or narrower than the others in the kitchen). Being exact isn't critical, just do your best! The new countertops will always be laser measured to exact dimensions by our professionals here at StoneMark before they are fabricated and installed.



1. Measure the lengths as they follow along the wall.
2. Check the depths from the nose of the counter all the way back to the wall.
3. If you have a peninsula, make sure you measure from the wall out to the furthest point, AND measure the width across the widest point.
4. A rectangular island can just be measured by length and width, but a more complex island shape should also include all perimeter lengths.
5. Measure an existing backsplash that's either connected to the counter (or simply attached to the top of it) from the top of the counter to its highest point.
6. Make simple notes as to the various locations of appliances or sinks.



Basic installation includes installing your new countertops on cabinets that are fully prepared and ready to accept new tops. We can also remove your existing tops and dispose of them, as well as coordinate the disconnecting and reconnecting of existing or new plumbing for an additional fee.



## Measuring Your Countertop

Use the grid below to sketch out your countertop. Make sure to make notes of things that you might not be sure about.

A large grid of 30 columns and 30 rows of light blue lines on a white background, intended for sketching a countertop layout.



## **StoneMark Prestige Installation Service - Our Commitment to Excellence**

Our commitment to always strive for excellence is the reason we created our Prestige Installation Service. This new customer-focused program ranges from priority scheduling through top-notch job completion and everything in between – from enhanced seams to our exceptional employees. Our installation crews' focus is on protecting your home and new countertop while performing your installation. They are hand-picked, background-checked, dressed for success, and will never smoke at your location. With Prestige Installation Service, we want your final steps to be as special as your new countertop.

1. **Priority Scheduling:** Most companies only schedule your installation after you get your kitchen templated. At StoneMark, we know how important it is to perform to **your** schedule, so we give you field measure (template) AND installation dates at the same time.<sup>1</sup>
2. **Enhanced Seams:** Many stone companies cut seams on a stone saw and install them as is. A saw can leave microchips on the top edge creating a less than great seam. At StoneMark, we put all of our seams on our Northwood CNC routers and grind them with a special tool that removes as many chips as possible, creating the best possible seam.
3. **Background-Checked Installers:** You don't want just anyone in your home, and neither do we! All of our installers must pass a rigorous background check before assigning them to a job.
4. **Dressed for Success:** Speaking of installers, ours are the best dressed in town! They all wear a company uniform of khakis and a StoneMark shirt, and their boots are covered with booties to protect your floors.<sup>2</sup>
5. **We Clean Up After Ourselves:** After your installation is complete, we'll make sure your new kitchen is spic and span so you can spend your time admiring our work, not cleaning up after us! We'll sweep your floor broom clean and vacuum up any dust that might have been created in the installation process.
6. **We Protect Your Home:** Our installers will lay down mats to protect your floors. If you have other contractors in your home, we can cover your tops with a blue film protector to keep your new countertops safe from rusty toolboxes, belt buckles, and other potential contractor scratch hazards.
7. **No Smoking:** Smoking is not permitted in our facility or at any job location. Our installers will never smoke in your home!

<sup>1</sup> Subject to availability of full job details.

<sup>2</sup> Except in cases where booties present a safety hazard/slip risk.