



by Sara Sobota

The Evolution & Current Design Trends For Countertops

Countertop selection is an exciting and central part of any home build or remodel. In the ever-changing world of countertop style, especially in this busy market, some new trends are emerging that homeowners and builders will want to keep on their radar.

One major evolution is the popularity of leathered granite for use in kitchens and bathrooms rather than traditional polished granite. Leathered granite, usually offered in dark colors such as absolute black, fantasy brown, or steel gray, has a matte, textured finish.



“People don’t necessarily want the polished look any more,” said Shannon Gormley, owner of Celtic Granite & Marble. “They want a duller top but with texture.”

Gormley added that availability of textured granite varies according to color.

“Many places seem to have steel gray and absolute black. For fantasy brown, you’ll have to look around,” said Gormley.

When it comes to outdoor kitchens, homeowners are sticking with the lighter colors.



“Lighter colors for outdoors just seems to go along with the outdoor lifestyle,” said Gormley.

Quartz, also, is undergoing a trend shift.



“For a long time, quartz was all about calacatta, which is white with grey veining through it. Now, the trend seems to be leaning more toward white quartz with brown or gold going through it,” said Gormley. “And it’s not necessarily white white, but off white. People are starting to go more for the creamier quartzes, for a warmer look.”

Another stone, called quartzite, is very popular. It’s on the high end of stones, and while its beauty and elegance are unquestionable, the stone also has some drawbacks.



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“Quartzite is a natural stone from the ground, not manmade,” said Gormley. “Quartzite stones are absolutely gorgeous. They are very hard. They are the most expensive stone to buy right now, and they take twice as long to fabricate and cut than quartz or granite.” Also, Gormley noted, quartzite with veins in it can be very fragile, so homeowners should be selective if they choose this stone. In addition, quartzite requires more frequent sealing.

Homeowners may choose from a variety of edges for their countertops, including rounded, bullnose, or half bullnose, but

many choose a simple standard edge. When people choose certain types of edges, they should keep color in mind, or the effect may be lessened.

“If you were to choose something really rounded or a half bull nose or bull nose edge, you have to choose the right color for that, because you might not be able to see it. With lighter colors, the edge is less noticeable,” said Gormley.

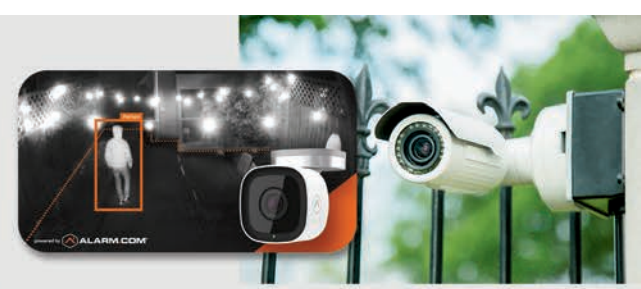
Turnaround times for countertops vary with the size and complexity of the kitchen, but homeowners should plan for at least a month. Prices vary widely as well. Gormley encourages all clients to visit area warehouses to select a stone, and then call retailers for the price. This process will result in a quicker turnaround time than ordering a stone from an online retailer.



For further information or to discuss your upcoming Countertop project, call Celtic Granite & Marble @ (843) 236-3120, email CelticGraniteandMarble1@gmail.com or visit CelticGranite.net.

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