

Getting the Process Started

Draw your Project: Download the Estimate Worksheet from our website. Don't worry about being exact or drawing to scale. Just draw your existing counters and measure in inches the length of your counters. Indicate which edges are open and which edge meet an appliance, cabinet or wall. Indicate where the appliances and sink are located in the kitchen as well as any appliance garages that are on the counter. Indicate which areas will need a backsplash. The purpose of this drawing is to determine how much granite your project will require. Since every stone is unique, knowing the quantity will help guide the process of the stone selection. You can fax or email your drawing to us. Or you can give the office a call at 864-8050 to have someone come out to your home to take measurements for you free of charge.

Choose your own slabs from our slabs/samples in our shop or if you don't see your stone, we encourage you to visit our suppliers in person from the list below.

Triton Stone, 109 Von Braun Drive, Huntsville, AL (www.tritonstone.com) – Preferred Vendor

OHM International, 169 Production Avenue, Madison, AL (www.ohmintl.com)

Shopping: Have fun walking up and down the rows of stone slabs. Decide whether you prefer stone with movement and waves or more consistent stone. When you find the stone you want, make sure there are enough slabs to complete your kitchen (from step 1). Bringing your cabinet with you will make the selection process easier. See our tips on **Choosing the Right Granite Color.**

Tag It: Tagging stone only means that the supplier agrees not to sell that stone to someone else for 7 to 10 days. You are not obligated to buy that stone. Just leave your contact information and make sure they know **Natural Stone Concepts** is the fabricator. Once you tag your stone, the supplier will fax over your selection sheet to us so we can work you up a price.

Price: Deanna will discuss with you the cost of the stone. Every stone is a different price, so it's essential for you to know what you like before we can determine the price. If you agree on the price, we require a 50% deposit in order to secure your materials and schedule a template and installation date.

Other Details to Consider

Backsplash – Are you going to do a tile backsplash or a 4" granite backsplash? This typically comes into play for kitchens only. Most will do the 4" backsplash in bathrooms. This is mainly just a personal preference of the customer. The following are just my two cents worth: First of all, I wouldn't do both (4" granite and then above that go with tile) for a couple of reasons: you are double paying - you have to pay for the square footage of the granite backsplash and then for the tile materials and labor. I personally like the tile backsplash, it seems to give the kitchen a more "finished" look.

Edging: There are several options for you to choose from and you'll be able to see samples of each. We have 4 free edges to choose from and a variety of upgraded edges as well.

Sink: The latest trend is an undermount sink where the sink is mounted below the granite so the counters are smooth without a sink rim. This involves cutting a hole in the granite to the exact shape of the template of your sink and then polishing the cut edges to hi-gloss shine. The sink you choose should be of excellent quality and a sink that you will enjoy for many years. The two most popular types of sinks are the Stainless Steel and the Blanco Silgranite sinks.

Cooktops: Keep in mind that once a cooktop is cut you can't get a smaller cooktop in the future. Going bigger, isn't a big deal down the road but smaller can't happen. So if you are thinking about getting new appliances, now might be a good time to get them.

Faucets: Most people are going to choose a new faucet to complete the updated look of their kitchen. If you are considering an 60/40 or 40/60 the faucet holes can only be drilled from the center of the bowl over to the smaller side of the sink. The "60" part of the sink is so large from front to back there isn't enough room for faucet holes.