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## Granite Countertops and “Green Building”

### How do granite countertops fit with “Green Building”?

That’s a good question because there is a huge movement for “Green Building” going on in this country right now. Let’s start by first defining what “Green Building” is. “The Green Building Resource Guide defines green building materials and products as having at least one of the following characteristics: nontoxic; recycled content; resource efficient; long life cycle; or, environmentally conscious.”<sup>1</sup> Basically green building is a way to use our resources efficiently, while providing healthier living environments and work spaces.

Building and remodeling with granite countertops is literally a natural choice. Granite is quarried from the earth’s crust and is considered the oldest building material. Granite countertops not only have natural beauty and characteristics, but will last more than a lifetime. Once installed, they become a permanent fixture and will add elegance and attractiveness to any home. Granite countertops are fabricated with diamond bit tools and equipment that is water-fed. Scrap pieces are generally crushed and recycled to be used again in building roads. Granite countertops also require little maintenance and care is as easy as washing with hot, soapy water and a washcloth. So to answer your question, because granite countertops are non-toxic and last more than a lifetime, they fit quite well with “green building”.

<sup>1</sup> Sources: Green Building Resource Guide <http://www.greenguide.com/q-and-a.html>