



Day of Install | Soapstone Disclaimer | Care & Cleaning

WHAT TO EXPECT

Oiling Soapstone

Soapstone fresh from the quarry is light gray in color. That rich charcoal color soapstone is known for comes when the stone is exposed to water, grease and oils. These liquids cause the stone to oxidize, which darkens the stone's color and really brings out its natural beauty. To help expedite oxidation of the stone, we recommend that you treat it with mineral oil from time to time. This treatment will keep oxidation uniform across the entire surface.

First Oiling

The first oiling of your soapstone will take a bit more elbow grease than follow-up oilings. With a few clean, dry rags at the ready, simply pour the mineral oil directly from the bottle onto the surface of the soapstone, rubbing it on to the entire surface with one of the rags (a small paint brush can be handy for corners). Once you've covered the stone with oil, let it sit for a half hour or so. Then just wipe off the excess oil with another clean, dry rag. Remember, mineral oil is just a thin moisture layer that is used to speed up oxidation of the stone. Since the stone doesn't absorb the oil, over time it will evaporate and need replenishment. Now that you have brought out the character of your soapstone, it's ready to use.

Follow-up Oiling

This treatment and its frequency of application depends on the individual homeowner. Most people find an average of once a month for a year works for them. Some are finished with treatment within a couple of months. Some people treat the surface for a couple of years. A general guide to reapplying the mineral oil is, when water is leaving a noticeable dark spot, oil it up.



Things To Know About Soapstone

- Soapstone has variations in color and texture that are part of the natural beauty of soapstone, making each slab unique.
- Soapstone has pits, fissures, natural cracks and veining that are inherent features of the slab. Soapstone is very brittle, expect your new soapstone countertops to have cracks or chunks of stone missing or glued back in from the fabrication process. Despite our best efforts, these imperfections will be noticeable.
- Backsplash is made of the same material as the countertop and will always be the same thickness.
- Despite our advanced technology, soapstone has visible seams.
- Support for overhangs greater than 8—10 inches is required.
- Soapstone is non-porous, we recommend cleaning with warm soapy water.



Home Owner Check List

- Cover living areas or doors to adjacent living areas to contain dust. Countertop installation is a construction process, residual dust should be expected.
- Remove all drawers from your cabinets and contents including pots, pans and dishes. Store them in an area away from the install site.
- Ensure that your installation appointment does not conflict with other work being done in your home.
- Countertops are heavy! Create a clear path from your driveway through your home for easy access.
- If you're removing the existing countertop, the old countertop must be removed prior to the installation day. We recommend removing it the day before your new countertops are scheduled to be installed. Top of cabinets need to be clean and prepped for your new countertops.
- If Distinctive Kitchen & Bath is removing the old countertops please remember, this is a demolition process. Damage to walls, existing tile backsplashes, and/or cabinets may occur though we will use our best care this is your responsibility to repair.
- Your main waterline to the house must be turned off before we unhook any plumbing.
- Final wall finishing should NOT be completed prior to installation of countertops. Scratches, dings and dents to the wall **WILL** occur during install. Make sure you have paint on hand to touch up these areas after we leave.
- All appliances must be on site, but not installed.
- White paintable caulk will be used when caulking countertops / back splash to the wall. 100% silicone will be used to caulk countertops to cabinets unless cabinets are going to be painted then we will use the paintable caulk. Please advise installer of this at time of install.



Warranty

Achieving the highest level of satisfaction and creating an experience that is unmatched in our industry is our top priority.

In addition to any manufacturer warranty, Distinctive Kitchen & Bath guarantees our work and we stand behind our product.

Learn more about our warranty at www.distinctivekitchen.com/warranty

Day of Install—What to Expect

- Scratches and/or scrapes to cabinetry may occur, despite our best care this is your responsibility to repair.
- Existing backsplash, like tile, may also be damaged. This is your responsibility to repair.
- During installation expect loud noises and the use of power tools inside & outside your home.
- Purchasing custom countertops requires the installer to make partial or full cuts to ensure a good fit. It is expected for the installer to have to cut, polish, and refinish during the install process.
- Cutouts for sinks and cooktops may be partially or completely created in your home after installing your countertop. This is done to ensure safe handling and to avoid breakage during transport.
- During installation there will be a strong odor from the caulk, solvents, and epoxy used to clean, seal, and secure your new countertop.
- Joint width at seams and visible material transitions are typically 1/8" - 1/4". Material transitions include the juncture between countertop and other materials like cabinets, walls, etc. The juncture between a full height backsplash and the underside of the upper cabinets may be up to 1/4".
- Gaps between the backsplash and wall are determined by the straightness of your walls. There is no way to minimize the size of gap. Granite cannot bend around a wall that is not straight.
- If your installation includes a full-height backsplash, the measurements for the backsplash will be taken after installation of the countertop surface. Upper cabinets and range hood/microwave combinations must be installed prior to measuring for the full-height backsplash in order to secure the best fit. There will be a gap of 1/4" between the top of the splash and the bottom of your cabinets.
- Regardless of your countertop selection – it is not recommended to place anything from the stove top or out of the oven directly on your countertops without the use of a trivet or hot plate. We also recommend something under a crockpot, air fryer, toaster oven, any appliance that can generate heat.
- Shims are commonly used to level the countertop. In some situations, trim molding may be required to cover exposed shims. This is your responsibility.



Distinctive

KITCHEN & BATH

GRANITE, QUARTZ, MARBLE, CABINETS