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How Thick Are Prefabricated Granite Countertops?



Granite

countertop thickness varies according to style.

If you are considering installing granite countertops, your choices are primarily between granite tile and a granite slab. Granite tiles can be easily installed throughout any area and typically are thin, so space is rarely a concern. Granite slabs provide a richer feel and appearance with an unbroken, smooth granite surface, but space issues are more important. Prefabricated granite countertops range in thickness, depending largely on where you want to install them.

Prefab Granite

You can order customer granite slab countertops if you want, but these are among the most expensive counters available. Prefab versions are made in a factory and are designed to be quickly transported and installed. The one-size-fits-all nature of prefab countertops reduces the price dramatically, but it does make sizing a concern. For example, a width of 25 inches and a length of 98 inches is common for most large prefab slabs. There are also limited options for thickness -- either a thick or thin version.



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Thick Counters

Thick granite countertops are 1 1/2 inches thick, and the larger size does carry some benefits. It makes the countertop stronger and less likely to crack or break under stress. But it is also much heavier and more difficult to install, and it requires extra cabinet supports. Such thick slabs are generally used only in kitchens where impacts and natural wear and tear are more common.

Thinner Counters

Thin prefab granite countertops are only 3/4 inch thick, a more common size that has a variety of applications. These slabs are easier to install, but more vulnerable to cracking. They are suitable for installation throughout the house, from kitchens to bathrooms. Some versions are even thinner and come in 1/2 inch thicknesses, which may be suitable for counters that will receive little wear, especially when price is a concern.

Variables

Thickness in granite slabs can be subject to a number of variables. The type and color of granite may subtly influence the thickness, creating small measurement differences. It is also common for the edge of the granite countertop to be thicker than the rest of the surface. Bullnose edges are generally 1 1/4 inches thick compared to the typical 3/4-inch-thick slab.