



Countertop Basics

Natural Stone Countertops (Stonemark)

Granite, Marble, Quartzite, Soapstone, etc.

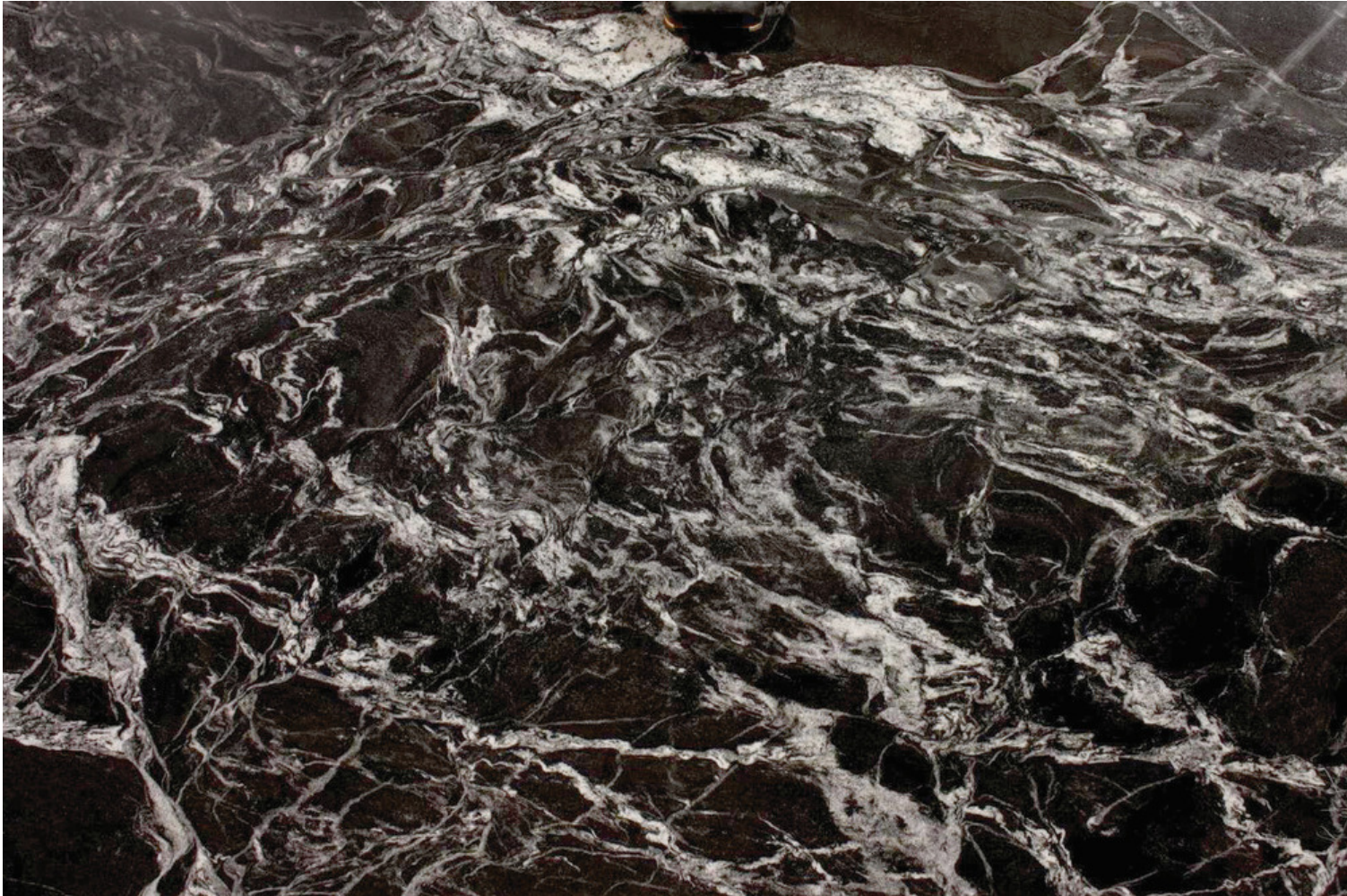
- Porous and susceptible to staining – needs to be sealed 1-2x per year
- Large color and pattern variability
- May have pits and fissures
- Heat resistant
- Scratch resistant
- Often Resined in the factory to fill small pits & fissures to help strengthen the surface of the material, and to add some stain protection
- Fragile stones will have mesh backing to add strength during transportation and fabrication, important to know for overhangs (1/3 of the current program colors)

Properties			
Comparing granite, quartzite, and marble (all colors)			
	Granite	Quartzite	Marble
Hardness	6 to 7	7	3 to 3.5
Acid resistant?	yes	yes	no
Porosity	varies	varies	varies

Hardness of common materials, for reference:
fingernail = 2.5 copper penny = 3 glass = 5.5 steel file = 6.5

Natural Stone Countertops (Stonemark)

Arabian Nights



Natural Stone Countertops (Stonemark)

Thunder White



Natural Stone Countertops (Stonemark)

Bianco Antico



Specific Challenges with Marble



Very soft and can scratch easily

Specific Challenges with Marble



Patina: a natural change in color over time due to oxidation

Specific Challenges with Marble



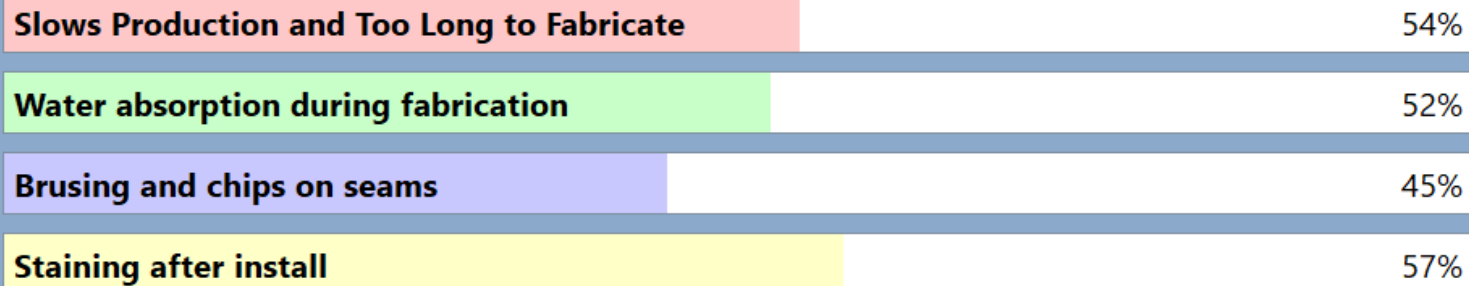
Etching: Acid reacts with the calcium carbonate and literally eats away a tiny bit of the surface, creating dull spots known as etches. An etch is not a stain. It's an actual changing of the stone itself like a scratch. It's not a discoloration, it's a dulling. Will be less noticeable on Honed vs. Polished surfaces.

Specific Challenges with Quartzite

Poll taken during a recent fabricator training through the Natural Stone Institute

What challenges have you seen during the fabrication of quartzite?

Poll Results (multiple answers allowed):



Specific Challenges with Quartzite



Large color variation even in different parts of the same slab



Easily stained by grease

Some colors easily absorb water & can take a month or more to dry



Specific Challenges with Quartzite

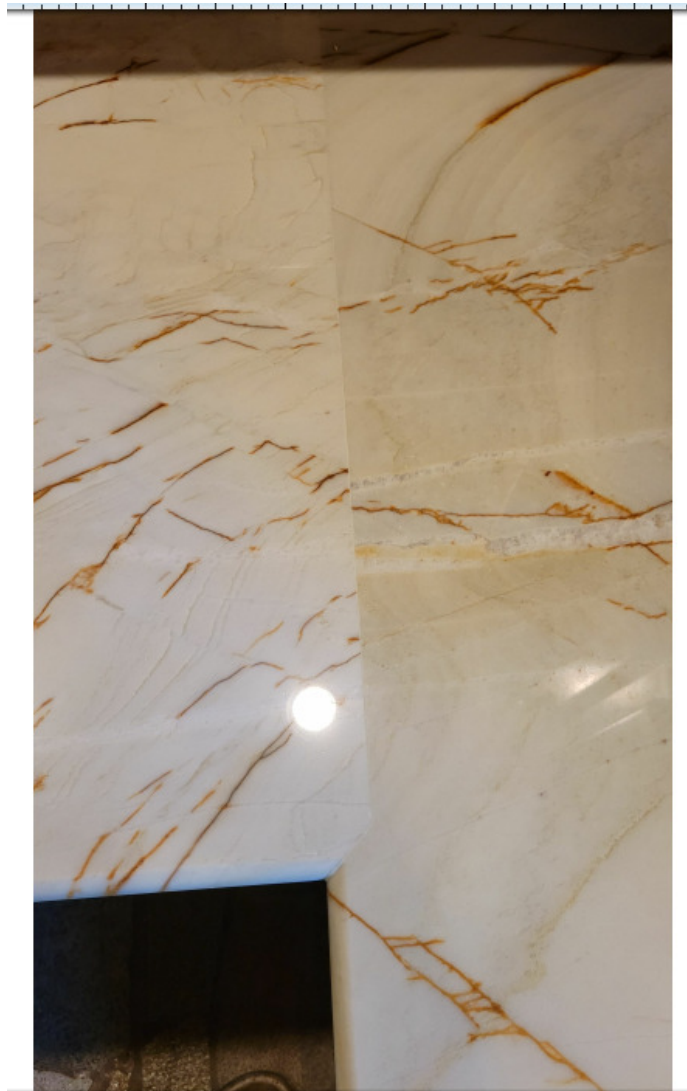
Tahitian Cream



Specific Challenges with Quartzite



Specific Challenges with Quartzite



Manmade Countertops

Quartz

- 80%-92% natural material, remaining is Resin
- Non-porous & Stain Resistant
- Consistent, uniform color & pattern
- Can have resin pooling (blotches)
- Not UV Resistant
- Will crack under heat
- Scratch resistant

Ultra Compact

- Mostly porcelain
- Non-porous
- Stain resistant
- Consistent, uniform color and pattern
- Pattern on surface only
- Heat resistant
- Scratch resistant

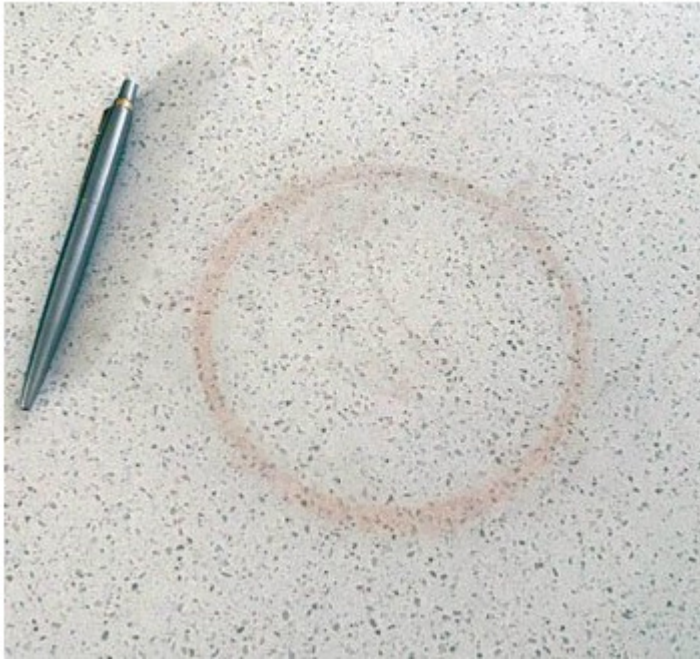
Laminate

- Thin hard layer on top of sub wood
- Non-porous
- Stain resistant
- Consistent, uniform color and pattern
- Can burn under heat
- Easy to scratch and chip

Solid Surface

- 100% acrylic and polyester resins
- Non-porous
- Stain resistant
- Consistent, uniform color and pattern
- Can burn and/or crack under heat
- Easy to scratch

Specific Challenges with Quartz



Quartz top burn mark



Quartz crack due to heat

Thickness & Edges – Natural Stone & Quartz

Natural Stone & Quartz slabs come in two main thicknesses: 2cm and 3cm

Edges can be routed to be a variety of shapes and can also be mitered or stacked for varying thicknesses.

<https://accentcountertops.com/edge-profiles-2/>

Eased



Half Bullnose



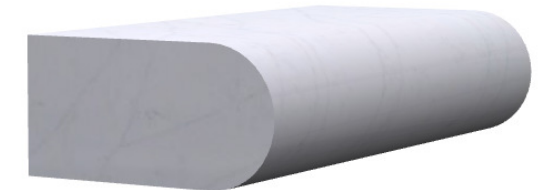
Bevel



Double Radius



Bullnose



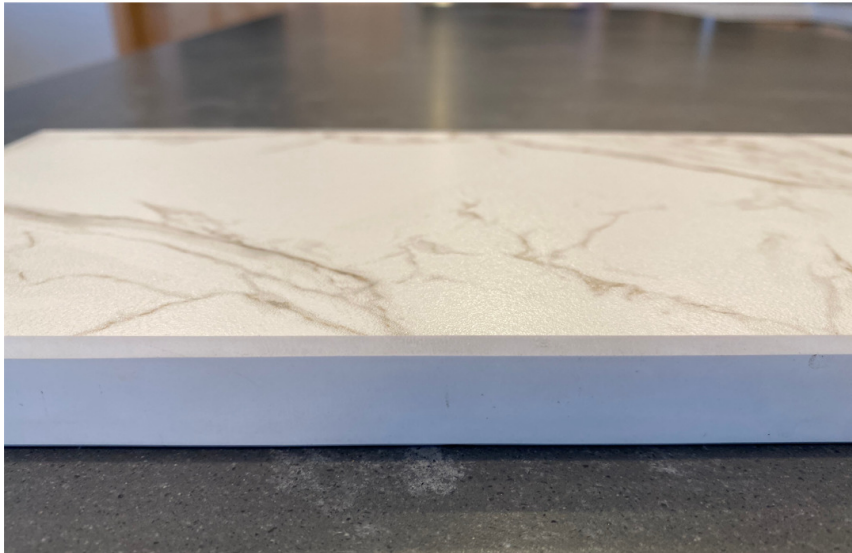
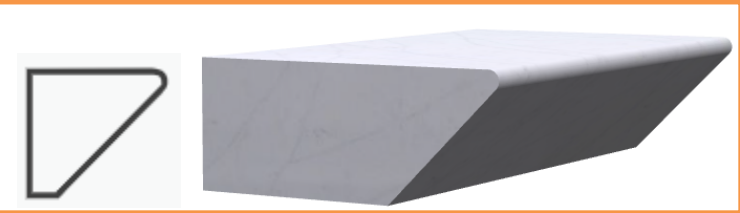
Thickness & Edges – Ultra Durable

Dekton & Stonemark
Porcelain come in
2cm only

Eased



Sharknose



Pattern printed on the top

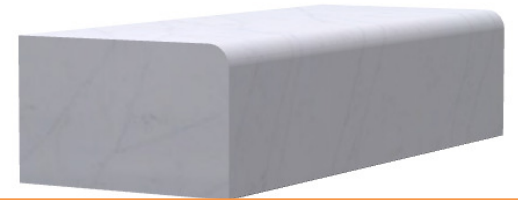
Edge with no pattern

Thickness & Edges – Solid Surface

Solid Surface is built using .5" material but is built up to 1.5" thick using a laminated edge



Roundover 3/8"



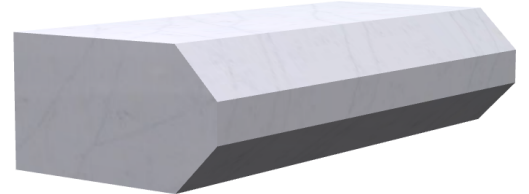
Roundover 3/4"



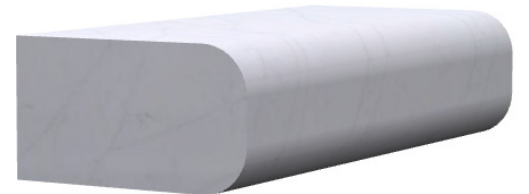
Bevel



Bevel 1/4 T&B



Roundover 1/4 T&B



Backsplash

Backsplash using countertop material can be made in any heights greater than 2” with Quartz and Ultra Compact Surfaces and 3” for Granite. Standard is 4” for Granite & Quartz and 3” for Solid Surface. Also common is “full height” backsplash which goes all the way up to the bottom of the upper cabinets.

Example of 4”
backsplash



Example of
“full height”
backsplash



Captured Backsplash

Captured Backsplash is when the backsplash meets a mirror such as in a bathroom, an outlet, tile backsplash, or some other item.

The Home Depot policy stats that the customer removes their mirror (or other item), we install our standard height backsplash, and then the customer reinstalls their mirror (or other item) on top of the backsplash.

If the customer cannot remove the item, we can measure 1/8" to 1/4" below the item and leave a small gap or for an additional fee we can scribe the backsplash on site (\$175).

[The Home Depot What to Expect Document states:](#)

- ✓ **Clear the installation area**
Remove all base cabinet contents, drawers and breakables from the installation areas (including but not limited to lamps, vases, mirrors and wall hangings).



Overhangs

Standard overhangs are 1" to 1.5" on all finished sides.

Maximum overhangs for islands, bars, or anything else without supports such as corbels or steel bars are:

- 6" for 2cm Granite
- 10" for 3cm Granite
- 12" for 2cm Quartz
- 12" for 3cm Quartz
- 12" for Ultra Durable

The unsupported portion of the overhang can never be more than 1/3 the width of the entire countertop.



<https://accentcountertops.com/overhangs-supports-2/>

Common Options & Upgrades

Digital Slab View: A high resolution image of a customer's layout on their actual slab(s): \$250

Chip Minimizer: A bullnose edge around the sink in order to prevent chipping: Kitchen \$250, Vanity \$175

Enhanced Silicone Based Sealer: The industry's best natural stone sealer & we leave the customer with the can: \$150

Radius: A rounded corner. Radius's can range from ¼" to over several feet.

Tear Out and Disposal of existing tops: We can remove and dispose of any countertop material.

Countertop Supports: We can provide and install supports for overhangs for \$200 Retail.

Dishwasher Brackets: We can provide and install Dishwasher Brackets for \$75 Retail.

Oversized Pieces: There is an oversized piece (>20 sq ft) charge of \$250 Retail.

Sinks: We have a number of in stock sinks that we sell through custom line item SKU's.

Waterfall Panels: We charge a custom charge of \$250 per Waterfall Panel.

Slab Layouts



- I would like to view my layout on the material by email prior to fabrication. By selecting this I understand my install date may be pushed out, and will be dependent on the day I approve by email.
Email address: _____

- I do not want to view my layout. By selecting this I understand that Accent Interiors will do the layout according to their best judgement

By the contractor/homeowner to ensure that the cabinets are fully installed and be permanently secured to wall and/or floor prior to templating. Cabinets that will rest on top of the countertop (i.e. appliance garages, tambour doors, etc.) need to be removed prior to templating and reinstalled after the installation of the countertop. Accent Interiors does not remove these items that are integral to your casework. Every effort is made to achieve flat and level countertops. Countertops can be shimmed up to 1/8" to make the best fit. If the cabinets are over 1/4" out of level, the installers will discuss options with the decision maker on site.

HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITY: Homeowner is responsible for the disconnecting and reconnecting of plumbing, electrical, and gas.

INSTALLATION: We require a decision maker over the age of 18 be on site during the entire installation. Our installers are moving heavy countertops and working with potentially dangerous tools. Please clear countertops, empty lower cabinets, remove top drawers, provide unobstructed access, and avoid the work area. Old countertops, sinks, appliances, etc. should be removed prior to installation unless you have contracted with us to remove them.

INCIDENTAL DAMAGE: We will clean the immediate surface areas and leave the job site in "broom swept" condition. Advanced tools are used for dust collection; however, residual dust should be expected. Final wall preparation (i.e. painting, wall papering, etc.) should be completed after the installation by the homeowner/contractor. Care will be exercised during the countertop installation; however, scrapes or punctures to walls and cabinetry are possible. These items are considered incidental damage and are your responsibility to repair.

TEAR-OUT: If you have contracted us to do tear-out. This includes removal and disposal of your existing countertops. Tear-out is typically done the day of installation. Please keep in mind that removing existing countertops may reveal discoloration, gaps, punctures, or minor damage along the top edge of the cabinets. This is your responsibility to repair. Removal of the backsplash will result in damage to the wall, existing backsplash, and mirrors. Plan the new backsplash to cover or plan to have walls repaired after tear out is complete. Certain restrictions apply.

Customer Name (Please Print): _____

Customer Signature: _____ Date: _____

I do not want to view my layout. By selecting this I understand that Accent Interiors will do the layout according to their best judgement

CARE & MAINTENANCE: Granite countertops need to be sealed approximately every 6-12 months depending on the porosity of the granite. Daily supply water to the household is essential for daily cleaning. Please avoid harsh cleansers, paint removers, nail polish remover, and oil soaps.

STRENGTH: Granite is scratch & heat resistant, but we recommend using cutting boards, trivets, & hot pads. The granite surface can be damaged by rapid or prolonged heat change and sharp objects. Do not place any heat sources directly on the granite surfaces.

SINKS: Under mount sink profiles will be cut per the manufacturer's template and recommendations. Top mount sinks will be cut once the countertops are in place on the cabinets to avoid breaking the material during install.

BACKSPLASH: Backsplashes are fabricated utilizing the same material as the countertops with a "flat polished" edge. A thin bead of silicone will be used to seal the backsplash to the countertop. Paintable latex caulking will be used on the backsplash at the wall. Variations are to be expected along the back of the backsplash if walls are bowed. Accent Interiors is not responsible for wall repair to improve the look of bowed walls. Trapped or full height splashes may require retemplating after the countertops are installed. A gap will be visible where the full height splash meets the upper cabinets or overhead appliances. Outlet receptacles & plates will need to be removed before the installation by the homeowner/contractor. It will be the homeowner's responsibility to replace wiring, reinstall receptacles, and attach covers.

I (print name) _____ understand the characteristics, care, and installation expectations of granite countertops.

Customer Signature: _____ Date: _____

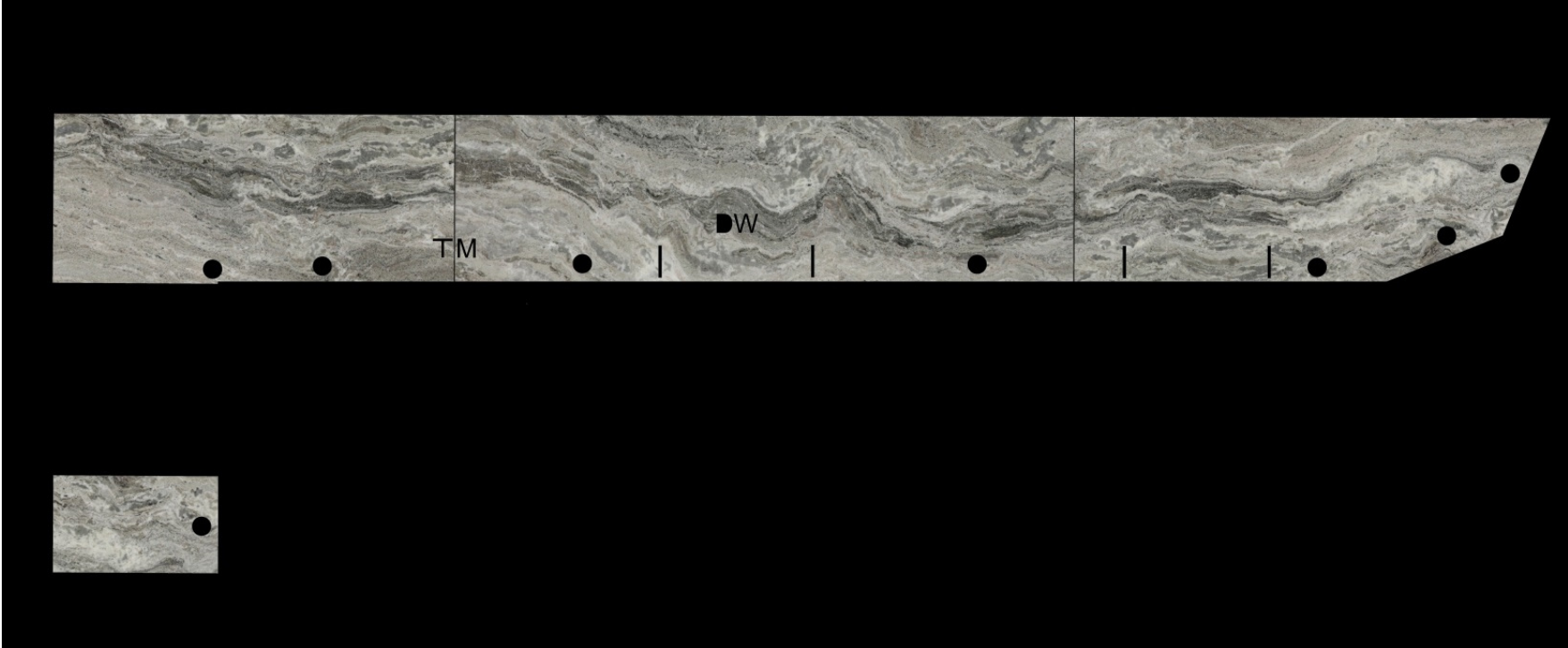
Accent Interiors | 4103 South 500 West | Murray, Utah 84123 | 801.269.0701 | www.accentinteriors.com



Slab Layouts



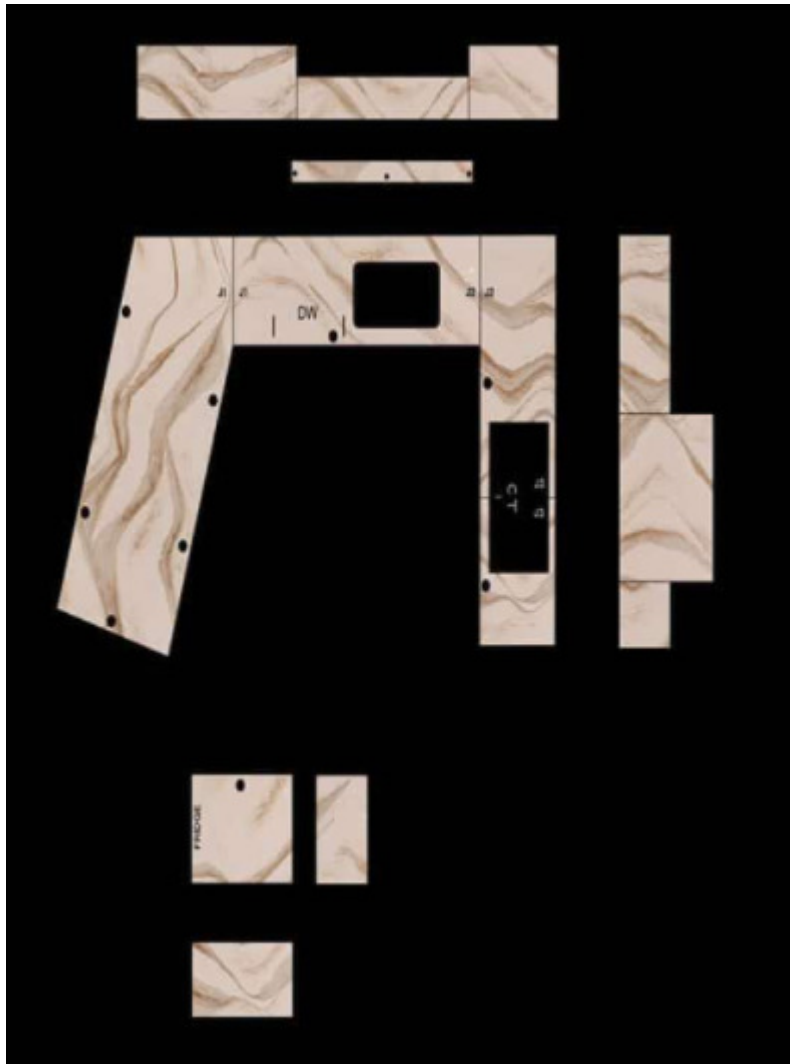
Slab Layouts



Slab Layouts



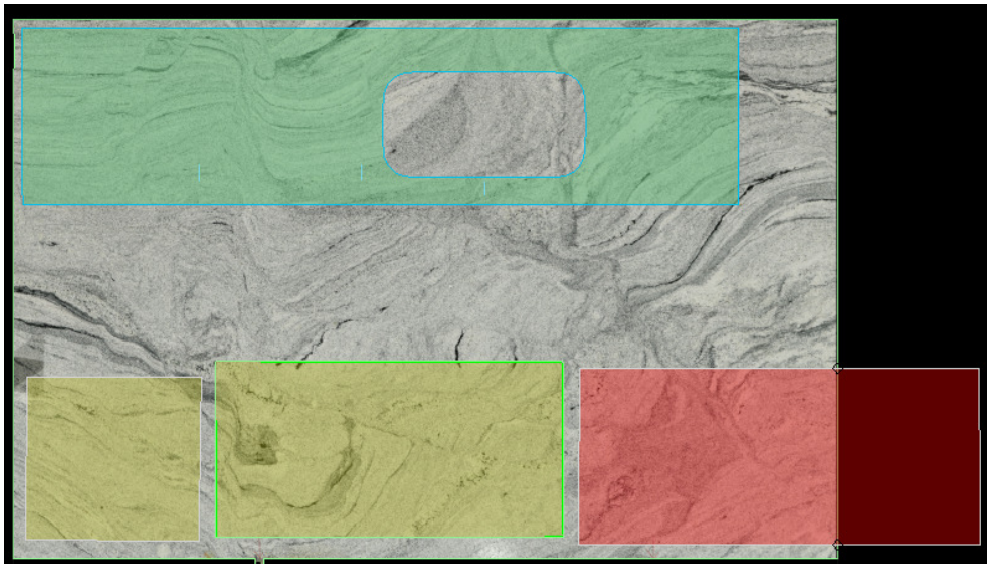
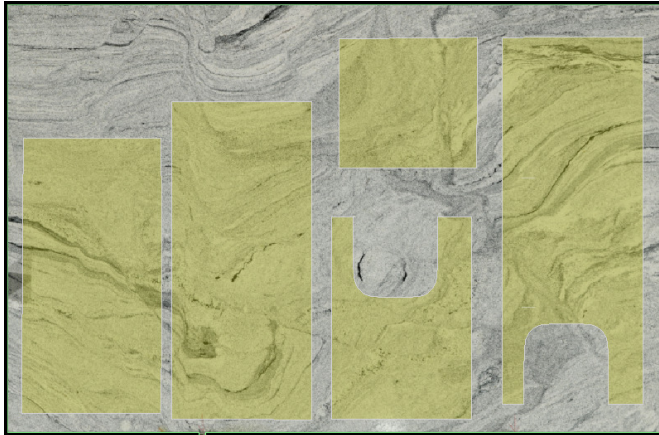
Digital Layout – Shows Veining



<https://accentcountertops.com/digital-slab-view/>

Digital Layout – Seams and Options to Reduce Seams

<https://accentcountertops.com/digital-slab-view/>

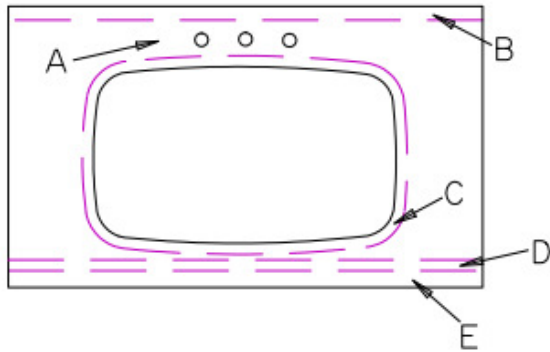


Seams

How does Accent decide where to put a seam?

- Installer safety
- Material safety
- Directional material
- Size of the slabs
- Size of the countertop pieces
- Type of material

Will My Kitchen Sink Fit?



- A - Faucet Clearance, typically 4 1/4"
- B - Backsplash, typically 1 1/4"
- C - Sink Flange, typically 1"
- D - Cabinet Faceframe, typically 1"
- E - Overhang, typically 1 1/2"

Typical Countertop Depth - 25 1/2"

Typical Sink Setback - 4"

Largest Sink Cutout with Splash - 16"

Largest Sink Cutout without Splash - 17 1/4"

Resources

Natural Stone Institute Articles & Resources

<https://usenaturalstone.org/definitive-guide-quartzite/>

<https://usenaturalstone.org/properties-of-quartzite/>

<https://usenaturalstone.org/telling-white-stones-apart/>

<https://usenaturalstone.org/three-things-i-wish-customers-knew-about-using-natural-stone/>

<https://usenaturalstone.org/granite-vs-engineered-quartz-countertop/>

<https://usenaturalstone.org/is-quartz-natural-stone/>

https://www.naturalstoneinstitute.org/default/assets/File/consumers/homeownersconsumer_countertop.pdf