



AVONITE SURFACES VS. GRANITE

**AVONITE**  
SURFACES

**“Granite is the only choice.”**

Twenty years ago, granite was the premium product for high-end commercial applications and kitchens.

## CONSIDER YOUR OPTIONS

Today, granite is commonplace yet poorly understood. Should granite be the default for luxury, or are designers smarter about the alternatives? How does granite compare with Avonite Surfaces in the areas most important to homeowners, owners, and users of premium homes and commercial applications?



## MOLD AND BACTERIA RESISTANCE

By far the greatest advantage of Avonite Surfaces over granite should also be the most important to any designer: hygiene. Avonite Surfaces is nonporous while granite has natural pockets to hold food and other material conducive to bacterial and fungal growth. The standard procedure to minimize the danger of granite is by coating the surface with a sealant. Risk still exists due to poor application of the sealant, inconsistencies in the sealant material, and damage caused by normal wear and tear on granite. For surfaces used only for aesthetic reasons, this is a limited problem. For highly trafficked areas, granite can become a breeding ground for all of the germs transferred through human contact. For areas requiring hygienic conditions (such as in kitchens, food preparation areas, bathrooms, or healthcare applications), the use of granite can lead to unnecessary risks.

## STAIN RESISTANCE

The nonporous nature of Avonite Surfaces creates a barrier to stains. Granite traps inks and other chemicals in the crevices on its surface, and a worn granite top captures the history of spills and accidents caused over time. There are no crevices or pockets in Avonite Surfaces, so stains can be easily wiped away with soap and other common cleaning agents. Severe stains can be buffed away, leaving the surface as good as new.



Coppermine



## DESIGN FLEXIBILITY

Avonite Surfaces is the product of choice for leading designers around the world. It is unique in its appearance, and a designer can make a statement using these products. As more and more granite has been imported from China, India, and other developing countries, it has become ordinary and predictable. The list of new ways to use Avonite Surfaces products continues to grow. Backlighting brings pizzazz to chic bartops. Counters can twist and turn through thermoforming. Applications are limited only by the creativity of designers.

## EDGE DESIGN

The edge of a countertop provides a finishing touch to any commercial or residential application. Edges on Avonite Surfaces counters run from the simple to the ornate. Fabricators create a seamless edge using two or more piece, creating an edge consistent in color and quality. Granite has a visible seam if an edge is built using two pieces. The edge is the most vulnerable part of a granite countertop, with chips and breakage easily visible within a few months. These chips can cause everything from cuts to clothing snags for the unsuspecting child, business traveler, or patient.



Avonite Surfaces Recycled Collection

## SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Avonite Surfaces is the leader in sustainable design. The recycled collection provides designers with products made with at least 40% post-industrial waste. With proprietary production techniques, Avonite Surfaces can provide products delivered in custom sheet sizes. This dramatically reduces waste during installation, eliminating significant amounts of debris bound for landfills. Granite is quarried in increasingly far-flung parts of the world, often with little to no environmental oversight.

## WARRANTY

As a natural product, granite is not protected by a warranty. For such a hard stone, it can be delicate. When granite is quarried then cut into slabs, natural fissures may be hidden from visible inspection. Poor workmanship can increase the likelihood of breakage as the product comes under normal wear and tear. Avonite Surfaces offers a limited ten-year warranty on their products. This provides assurance that a durable yet beautiful product is installed, and Avonite Surfaces products remain functional, beautiful, and in style well into the second decade of use.



Vanity Intergrated Sink

## HEAT RESISTANCE

Hot pots and pans should never be placed directly on any countertop, whether it is granite or Avonite Surfaces products. Minor damage of Avonite Surfaces countertops can be repaired by buffing the area. Major heat damage is still repairable by a trained fabricator, and the countertop will look as good as new. While granite is heat resistant, placing a hot pan on a granite surface burns the sealant away, exposing the surface to bacteria and mold.

## SINKS

Granite slabs combine with sinks in an unattractive meeting of stone and metal. Installers use sealants in the groove left when undermounting a sink, leaving an ugly mess as well as open pockets where mold and mildew can grow. With Avonite Surfaces, integrated sinks provide a seamless bonded installation with no areas for mold and mildew to take hold. No cracks, no crevices, no grout lines, no sealant. No problems.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Keeping Avonite Surfaces products sparkling is a snap. Soap and water or common cleaning agents take care of most cleaning needs. Minor scratches and damage can be buffed away, leaving the surface as good as new. Even if countertops are damaged severely, Avonite Surfaces can be repaired by a skilled fabricator. Granite is a bit more complicated. Sealant should be applied annually to any granite surface, yet it may be damaged and worn during a year of use. Remember, granite is a natural substance, and every slab is unique in its cracks, crevices, and pores. While granite is a very hard surface, the sealant can be easily scratched and removed during normal use. Granite is difficult to crack yet delicate to maintain.



Leading designers are making the switch from granite to Avonite Surfaces, the intelligent choice for beautiful and unique countertop surfaces. To find out more, go to [www.avonitesurfaces.com](http://www.avonitesurfaces.com) or call 866.Avonite to locate a Commercial Design Specialist, receive samples, or find a sales person near you.

1.800.4.avonite | [avonitesurfaces.com](http://avonitesurfaces.com)

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