



It's such a cold, cold world

Mid-Atlantic Masonry Heat
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Soapstone vs. Granite...

- **Installation** - Our 60 pound soapstone slabs can be handled and installed by the home owner, using standard wood working tools with carbide tip blades. From our experience we have noticed that our smaller soapstone slabs produces much less waste than slabs that run 48" to 60" in length. *Granite cannot be installed by the average homeowner and needs to be professionally installed by expensive granite fabricators.*
- **Seaming** - Soapstone slabs can be seamed together using non-porous 2 part epoxy which can be sanded flush to the surface. You cannot feel seams when you rub your hand over the surface. (Any seams will virtually disappear when mineral oil or bees wax paste is applied). *Granite has a high gloss surface; if there are any seams, they will visually stand out and cannot be sanded down. Seams in granite are a breeding ground for bacteria.*
- **Surface Finish** – Soapstone is naturally non-porous and does not need sealing. Mineral oil or bees wax paste is often applied to bring out marbling and background movement and to darken the surface to hide the seams. Soapstone will darken naturally around high traffic areas such as around the sink and stove. Mineral oil or bees wax paste will darken the entire countertop so the darkening from use around the high traffic area will not show up. Refinishing soapstone countertops is as simple as removing the old beeswax with a green 3M pad or sandpaper and reapplying the mineral oil or bees wax paste. *Granite is extremely porous and needs to be sealed. Over years of use the seal will wear off and the granite countertop owner will need to have the surface professionally resealed, which is expensive.*

- **Tolerances** – Tulikivi soapstone is the highest quality soapstone in the world and has the tightest tolerances in the industry. We guarantee that all slabs that come off the line to be within 1mm thickness, and within 1.5mm length and width. *Granite, no such tolerance information available to compare.*
- **Care** – Soapstone can be cleaned with soap and water. If the mineral oil or bees wax paste wears off or evaporates, just reapply. If you want the countertop to look like the day it was installed. Remove all the old mineral oil or beeswax paste with a green 3M pad and sand down any chips, divots and surface scratches with 100 grit sand paper and simply reapply the mineral oil or beeswax paste. *If you would like your used granite countertop to look like new you will need to call in an expensive granite countertop refinisher who will use a toxic sealer to get a nice glass like surface.*
- **Abuse** – Soapstone countertops are made to be used and abused, you can put a boiling pot of water on the surface of the countertop and it won't scorch or melt. Heck! You can build a fire on the countertop, it won't hurt it. The surface might be discolored, the customer can use a green 3M pad or sandpaper to remove the darkened area and reapply the mineral oil or beeswax paste, good as new. *Granite – if you put a boiling pot of water on a granite countertop you will likely have a permanent scorched surface and the brown area will remain until you have the area professionally refinished and resealed.*