

SOAPSTONE

DISCOVER
TIMELESS
BEAUTY

| EST 2001 |
D O R A D O
soapstone

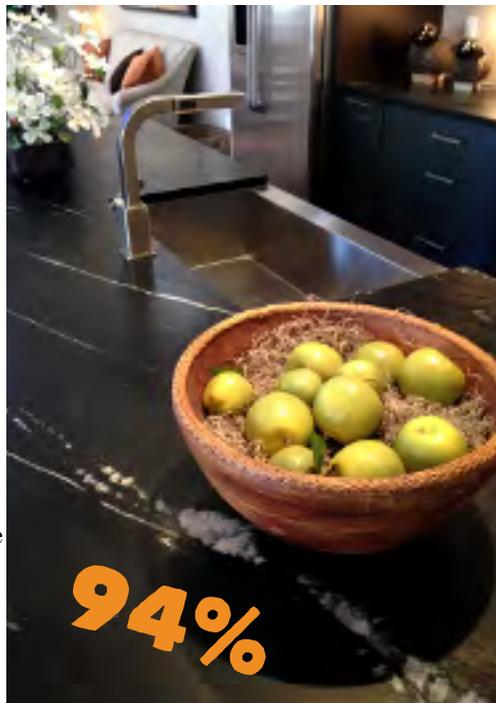
The Top 8 Myths about Soapstone
Does Soapstone Fit Your Home?

why is soapstone so hot?

Did you know that according to a recent Houzz survey, 94% of homeowners desire new counter tops?

With a myriad of products to choose from (including: granite, quartz, marble, corian, jadestone and more), homeowners desire versatile, affordable, and long-lasting surfaces that compliment their daily lives.

Soapstone is a natural, elegant, hard-working and no-compromise kitchen design solution. We'll show you what you need to know, bust some long-standing myths and misconceptions, and give you the resources to confidently choose soapstone for your home project.



HISTORY

The earliest United States counter tops were constructed from wide wooden boards. And by the early 20th Century, counter tops constructed from wood strips (known as BUTCHER BLOCK style) had become popular.

Alberene Soapstone Company opened in Virginia around 1900 and by the 1920s soapstone had found it way into many facets of American life. No American housewife would be without the famous Alberene soapstone washtub (pictured opposite).

Natural stones were already losing popularity in favor of manufactured materials such as corian when in 1969 Hurricane Camille rolled through Virginia from the Gulf of Mexico leveling the quarry and paralyzing Alberene's operations. Soapstone's popularity returned in the 1990s as styles shifted to natural stone once more.





8 MYTHS

It's hard to get all the facts about kitchen surfaces in one place and lots of myths exist online about the attributes of materials such as soapstone.

Here are the Top 8 Myths about soapstone:

8. Soapstone requires sealing
7. Soapstone is porous
6. Soapstone harbors bacteria
5. Soapstone is easily stained
4. Soapstone is expensive
3. Soapstone burns
2. Soapstone fades

and the number 1 myth (which has a grain of truth) is . . .

1. Soapstone is soft

Truth: Soapstone is softer than other rock but plenty hard enough for household use. Also, like a fine leather, soapstone ages with character OR can be buffed to a like-new luster making it one the easiest surfaces to care for. Left virtually untended, its look is timeless.

ORIGINS

Soapstone or steatite is a metamorphic rock chiefly comprised of talc, but in fact contains varying parts of chlorite, mica, tremolite, quartz, magnetite, and iron compounds.

It is named soapstone after its "soapy", soft feel. Black, gray or green in color, it is highly valued for its heat and acid resistance (acids stain other kitchen surfaces such marble or formica).

Due to its tenacity and endurance, soapstone is used in the manufacture of laboratory table tops, kitchen sinks, laundry tubs, furnace linings, and electrical apparatus.

Natural stone is unique; it's nature's own unparalleled manufacturing process where each slab is entirely unique. And since there's nothing like the real thing, we travel worldwide to exotic locations to select for you the finest blocks which are cut to thickness on diamond-studded cutting systems.

Advancements in manufacturing and quarrying technology means that Soapstone is now an affordable luxury for your home.





Photo Credit: S&W Kitchens

MYTH 8 SEALING?

In browsing through soapstone literature, you may read that soapstone is high maintenance and requires sealing.

In fact, in most cases the sealing of soapstone is discouraged. There are rare situations where a sealer may be used on soapstone. However, sealing of soapstone is never for protection as soapstone is naturally protected from etching or staining. Soapstone is non-porous and inert, making it extremely difficult to penetrate.

Sometimes "sealing" is confused with the process or products that enhance or darken the color of soapstone. The unaltered finish is matte and varies from gray to green. Some homeowners prefer to darken and polish their stone with oils and wax.

That case is purely aesthetic and not to be confused with a need to "seal".

Read on for tips to darkening your soapstone.

MYTH 7 POROUS?

Soapstone is dense and completely nonporous. No liquid penetrates soapstone's surface.

Everything stays on top of the stone. That is why darkening wax or oil needs to be reapplied periodically. It just evaporates off the top like everything else.

A glass of red wine spilled along the counter top and left unattended is no problem!

Any acidic liquid can be wiped completely away: tomato sauce, yellow curry, pomegranate juice.

MYTH 6 BACTERIA?

Bacteria is a valid kitchen concern:

Cross-contamination and the mishandling of food lead to some 72 million instances of disease in the U.S. every year

That's 1 in 4 people each year who suffer from food poisoning!

50-80% of all food-borne illnesses are contracted in the home. (MSN Health & Fitness)

Due to soapstone's density, it does not harbor or trap unwanted contaminants. Bacteria can't take hold.

Soapstone is a safe and healthy choice for your family.

Non-porous

Anti-bacterial



MYTH 5 STAINS?

Soapstone is siliceous which is to say that it is nonporous and therefore unaffected and unharmed by acids contained in everyday substances like wine, lemon, and vinegar. It does not stain and it does not etch.

If you remember your chemistry lab from high school, it was probably outfitted with soapstone lab tables. Why? Because no manner of volatile, acidic, explosive solution could penetrate the surface!

Stain-free

MYTH 4 EXPENSIVE?

Soapstone is priced around a 4 on the "granite 1 to 7 price scale" or the same as a moderately high priced granite.

While natural stones have historically been pricey compared with man-made "plastic" materials, its hard to compare the aesthetics and durability of natural stone with a plastic counterpart.

And today's quarries have breakthrough technologies in gang saw and cutting systems that make the production of soapstone a fraction of the manufacturing cost that it once was.

Affordable

MYTH 3 BURNS?

Approximately 10,000 pediatric burn injuries occur annually in the U.S.

The kitchen is the most frequent area in the home where burn injuries occur for children newborn to four (Bureau of labor statistics).

Moving hot baking and cooking pans to trivets and safe areas can require unsafe choreography. Most counter top surfaces can not take direct and prolonged heat but soapstone can.

Soapstone is easier and safer to cook around because you can put hot items right up top!

Heat-proof

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sagittis est, sed diam nonumy eirmod.

MYTH 2 FADING?

NO, BUT YOU CAN
VARY SOAPSTONE'S
COLOR WITH WAX

If you want to keep the counter
top a lighter gray (natural color):

Do nothing. The counter top will
naturally darken over time
around the sink where food and
oils hit the stone often. But oils
remain on the surface and you
can simply scrub with kitchen or
bathroom cleaner to keep the
stone lighter.

The following treatment will
darken the stone to a dark green
or black:

Waxing is cosmetic and darkens
the stone evenly.

Apply the wax to the counter top,
(as you would wax a car), two or
three times initially. It will
typically last for 7 to 12 months.

The remainder of the small 8 oz.
container can be used for
occasional touch-ups.

Dorado Dry Wax, can be
purchased for \$39.95.

The small 8 oz. container lasts for
about 10 years. It is all natural
and an easy choice for darkening
your soapstone and adding luster.

Fade-free

MYTH 1 SOFT?

ONLY COMPARED WITH SOME

For a stone, soapstone is on the soft end of the spectrum but it's still stone after all. Soft doesn't mean fragile.

Refer to the Mohs Hardness Scale and you'll see that stones below 2.5 are more easily scratched in normal conditions than those above the 2.5 rating.

Historically some soapstones range between 2-4 on the hardness scale-- the softest known by sculptors for excellent carving material.

The "new generation" of soapstone typically ranges between 3-4 which is significantly harder.

Harder stones can scratch and crack, typically without repair.

Because soapstone is slightly softer, its wear and tear and eventual scratches can be buffed out similar to the effect of time on fine leather.

For repair, just wipe over a scratch with wax or rub lightly with sandpaper or steel wool and voila!



Like a fine leather bag, soapstone ages in a natural and pleasing way. No two pieces are ever identical. Unlike leather, Soapstone doesn't stain so you can buff it like new or leave it au naturel!

MOHS HARDNESS SCALE



Timeline

for your project

1. Research fabricators

You or your contractor/designer will research a stone fabricator for the measurements, fabrication, and installation of your counter tops.

2. Share your plan

Once you've secured the right fabricator, you'll share your preliminary plan and possibly review samples.

3. Appointment with us at the yard

You will want to see the stone in its full beauty before making your final decision. Call us for an appointment and choose your unique piece.

4. Soft hold

We will arrange your choice stone to be placed on 2 week hold while you finalize your project and pricing with your fabricator or contractor.

5. Fabricator/designer

Your contractor will provide a quote, request a deposit, and contact us for a firm hold on your stone. They'll take measurements from drawings or your location.

6. Order, pick-up and fabrication

The fabricator will place the stone order, arrange for pick-up and make all cuts (fabrication) to assure a great fit.

7. Install & enjoy

Your fabricator will install the new stone material and you can relax and enjoy your one-of-a-kind creation.



best of classic and modern

soapstone plays well in any decor



Craftsman



Modern



Transitional



Industrial



Traditional

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DORADO

soapstone

Dorado Soapstone has been the wholesaler of choice since 2001.

Dorado Soapstone specializes in soapstone. We literally spend time roaming the corners of the world searching the quarries of our suppliers for the highest quality soapstone available. Dorado imports from various quarries located throughout Brazil, India, and the United States so we can offer you the largest selection of types and colors available in the North America.

Our five main warehouses are located in New England, Georgia, Texas and California, as well as Colorado.

If its service you want, you've found the right place. Our boutique customer service representatives and stone experts are highly trained and will ensure your education and satisfaction. We will find the type and color of slab that you are looking for. You can visit our warehouse and slab yard and even get a guided tour. We will email you photographs of individual slabs. Whatever you need to get the unique piece meant just for you.

Most of your questions can be answered on the spot. If you manage to stump one of us, we will find the answer for you.

Visit the slabs for yourself and see if soapstone is the right choice for you.

Dorado Surfaces is an importer and wholesaler of soapstone, quartz, and Jade Stone. Since 2001, Dorado has been importing soapstone, and more recently has expanded its line with the acclaimed NuStone Quartz.

For more education on soapstone, see our youtube channel: Dorado Soapstone

Call or email today for an appointment or to answer any of your questions.

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To your success!
Sincerely,
Steven Chavez
Owner