

Rocks in Your Mom's Kitchen?

Granite is one of the most popular kitchen countertop options due to its undeniable beauty. Forged by the earth, granite has a signature look that can't be duplicated. Do you know what goes into making these one of a kind countertops? In this article, we're going to delve into the composition of granite.

Mineral Composition

Granite is comprised primarily of two consistent minerals, quartz and feldspar. Overall, the combination of these two minerals gives granite a pale color.

- **Quartz:** It is very resistant to weathering, which is why it's so commonly found. It is a very popular choice for jewelry and carvings. It is a 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness.
- **Feldspar:** It is the most abundant mineral in earth's crust. It has many properties that make it good for making glass and ceramics. It is a 6 on Mohs scale of hardness.

Accessory Minerals

Though granite is mostly made up of quartz and feldspar, there are other accessory minerals responsible for giving granite its signature salt and pepper look. The most popular accessory minerals are biotite and hornblende, but they just scratch the surface of all the possible minerals in a slab of granite.

- **Biotite:** This mineral is a member of the mica group. It is referred to as "black mica," as opposed to "white mica," due to its appearance.
- **Hornblende:** It is a mixture of a series of minerals, not identifying with one individual mineral. It's a general term used to refer to dark-colored, inosilicate minerals.

What This Means

The result of granite's composition means it is an eye-catching countertop choice. Due to the variety of minerals involved in making up granite, it comes in a wide range of colors. Every slab is unique because each part of the world has different accessory minerals that work their way into the granite. The saying "as hard as rock" had to come from somewhere. With all the interlocking minerals working together, granite is a strong countertop option.

Mineral Stuff

Here's a word search with all sorts of words about minerals and mineral collecting. How many can you find?

S	T	R	E	A	K	P	O	P	R	E	T	S	U	L
C	P	H	A	R	D	N	E	S	S	Z	I	L	E	M
E	M	E	I	S	O	M	E	T	R	I	C	B	L	O
P	O	R	C	L	E	A	V	A	G	E	A	F	F	W
T	N	U	D	I	G	A	L	S	K	L	C	V	O	Q
E	O	T	J	N	F	C	I	N	I	L	C	I	R	T
R	C	C	L	A	D	I	O	Y	R	T	O	B	M	H
X	L	A	E	K	U	F	C	H	A	N	N	A	U	E
L	I	R	M	P	A	O	F	G	J	L	E	I	L	V
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T	I	B	N	O	I	M	E	R	A	A	U	S	T	S
S	C	I	R	A	P	R	W	E	S	M	V	I	T	S
Y	A	L	P	S	I	D	P	Y	R	A	M	I	D	A
R	T	E	T	R	A	G	O	N	A	L	B	Y	T	M
C	F	I	L	L	I	F	O	R	M	H	O	L	L	Y

Find These Words (left to right, right to left, down, up or diagonally):

Specific Gravity Fracture Streak Hardness Cleavage Luster Color
 Fibrous Isometric Tetragonal Monoclinic Triclinic Botryoidal Crystal
 Massive Prism Filliform Scepter List Display Dig Label
 Formula Pyramid