

# Kitchen Remodels ...

## COUNTERTOPS THAT INSPIRE YOU!



The feel and look of granite is still the most popular surface with consumers. This rock has intriguing variations in color and veining which gives it unique character ... Take your time when selecting your countertops ...this will enhance your space for a lifetime!

By **ED MURPHY**  
Special to the Day

The centerpiece of nearly every kitchen remodel, countertops provide much more than a splash of color; they set the stylistic tone for all that is around them.

Virtually defining the look of the kitchen, they're the first element to catch your eye, and their cool, smooth surface welcomes your touch. A change of countertops can transform the entire look of the room. In fact, replacing this one component often constitutes a kitchen remodel.

"Countertops are the most prominent element in any kitchen," says Jake Rota, project manager at Amity Construction & Design. "They add color, texture and provide the most character of anything in the kitchen."

Granite, which accounted for more than half of all kitchen countertop sales in the past year, is by far the most popular surface nationally, but Rota says quartz is more often the choice of savvy customers in the northeast. He explains that customers often come into Amity's Showroom and Design Center thinking granite,

but are pleasantly surprised to find the upscale look, lower price and greater durability of other surfaces - especially quartz - more to their liking.

Let's take a peek at some of the countertop options: **Laminate** (often called *Formica*) - This price-conscious option is a durable surface that offers perhaps the widest variety of

colors and design choices. One new product, called HD Laminate, has a rich look and textured feel. This surface is ideal for active family use, and will often last up to 30 years.

**Corian** (plastic polymer) - Manufactured by DuPont, the beauty of this surface is that it is seamless and non-porous, creating a bacteria free surface. Featuring a more subdued look than the others, it wears well, but does tend to show scratches, which can be buffed out.

**Granite** - The most popular

countertop surface, granite is a natural product that offers its own unique beauty and character.

The combination of the color and veining patterns provide for an infinite number of variations, with upscale versions being absolutely breathtaking. As you would expect, this quarried stone is quite durable, but it does require some special care. Granite's natural

fissures can lead to cracking, and the porous nature of this stone can cause staining. Granite should be resealed periodically.

**Quartz** - A manufactured surface that is made up of 93 percent quartz - the hardest non-precious mineral on the planet, and 7 percent resin - this non-porous surface is impervious to bacteria and even more durable than granite. Resistant to scratching, staining, cracking and heat, it requires little or no maintenance and even comes with a manufacturer's warranty in addition to the typical



An example of HD Laminate on display at Amity's Showroom and Design Center.



Quartz is impervious to bacteria and even more durable than granite.

builder warranty. Amity carries three lines of quartz, including some outstanding selections from Cambria, a Minnesota-based company whose color patterns and designs truly reflect American tastes.

If you would like to view examples of these surfaces, learn more or simply explore possibilities, visit Amity's Showroom and Design Center in the Old Lyme Marketplace on Halls Road for a free estimate.

A builder of homes, additions and commercial space, Amity Construction & Design can help you create the project of your dreams, whether you simply wish to replace countertops or do an entire kitchen remodel. And keep in mind, all of the custom cabinetry Amity installs is built right here in Connecticut. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 860.434.5500, visit them on the web at [www.AmityCD.com](http://www.AmityCD.com), where you can see a video of a countertop installation.

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- **JAKE ROTA**, Project Manager  
Amity Construction