



Mitered Edge Countertops



LAMINATED



MITERED

TIM,

We are shopping for quartz countertops for our new home. We have seen countertops online that appear thin and sometimes unattractive, while others are much thicker and more attractive. Why is there a difference, and how can we get the thicker countertops?

This is a great question that I encounter frequently. Most assume these “thicker” countertops result from thicker granite or quartz slabs, but Interestingly, there are essentially only two countertop thicknesses sold in this region. So how do some companies market thicker countertops?

The answer lies in a sophisticated fabrication process called mitering. Mitered countertops have a thickened edge. In the hands of the most skilled fabricators, mitered edge countertops appear to be two to three times thicker than the slabs they originated from, with no visible seams.

MITERED OR LAMINATED?

An older and less tedious thickened countertop process is called laminating. Essentially laminating glues two countertop pieces on top of each other, resulting in a countertop edge twice as thick as the original. Unfortunately, this process only works well if the countertop is a solid color. Otherwise, the resulting countertop edge has a noticeably mismatched grain or veining that is apparent to even the novice observer. Also, laminating produces a noticeable seam between the two adjoining slabs that is nearly impossible to obscure.

Mitered edge countertops (bottom



left page) have none of the unpleasant features associated with laminated edges. The edge graining is near perfect, and the seam is nearly imperceptible to the necked eye.

SO WHY DOESN'T EVERYONE OFFER MITERED COUNTERTOPS?

The answer lies in the sophisticated equipment and skill needed to produce

mitered edge countertops. The equipment to produce these beautiful countertops can cost thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Also, the fabricator must be skilled in the art of mitered edge fabrication.

ARE MITERED EDGE COUNTERTOPS AVAILABLE LOCALLY?

In a word, Yes! Some local countertop fabricators have the ability to produce

stunningly beautiful, mitered edge countertops.

Whether you are shopping for countertops, cabinets, or other kitchen components, the most satisfied consumers search out knowledgeable builders who perpetually stay abreast of the latest techniques and technology. Surprisingly, these builders are typically no more expensive to hire than their less experienced and less knowledgeable counterparts. **BG**



Tim Graham has been building homes in South Central, KY for over 30 years. He is a Master Builder, a Registered Builder and a Certified Green Professional.

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