



Vermont Soapstone Co.

Quality from the Quarry to Your Home Since 1856

## WELCOME TO VERMONT SOAPSTONE.

I'm Glenn Bowman and I've owned Vermont Soapstone since 1987. My team and I are proud to be part of a tradition of soapstone that began here in the 1850s. We use only premium soapstone, custom cutting and finishing it into sinks, countertops, fireplaces, and more. We are a part of the "Cook's Kitchen", fittings and fixtures that work with you, perform day in and day out and reflect a family's personality thru the generations. Take the challenge of living your life to be remembered. Soapstone, for the generations.



# Welcome



# Why soapstone?

For starters, it has a luxurious look and a soft texture all its own. Each piece features a unique vein pattern on a honed background that, over time (or with a light oiling), darkens into a deep rich gray. Soapstone keeps looking good year after year because it's heat resistant, nonporous, and virtually impossible to stain. It's also easy to work, so joints are almost invisible. **Why Vermont Soapstone?** Because our standards of structural integrity are unsurpassed—and we guarantee every job. Forever.

## Where is soapstone found?

There are soapstone deposits all over the world. While Finland, Brazil and India are the largest international producers, soapstone can also be found along the Appalachian range from Maine to Georgia (particularly in Vermont and Virginia). Most deposits are relatively small—ranging from small rocks to longer seams and boulders.



## Are there different kinds?

Yes, soapstone is found in basically two varieties, which differ based on the talc content.

- **Artistic soapstone** has a high talc content, is very soft, and is typically used for carving and welders' pencils. The Inuit whales and polar bears common in gift shops are carved from this soapstone.
- **Architectural soapstone** is the stone we use at Vermont Soapstone. It is about 60%-70% talc and is the ideal combination of strength and softness for sinks, countertops, floors, and other architectural elements.
- There are serpentines and granites marketed as soapstone. They are not soapstone.

## What about colors?

Although the soapstone we use has a blue tint (which sometimes appears green), it is basically gray interspersed with flecks of iron pyrite ("fool's gold") and veins of lighter quartz. Soapstone turns a deeper charcoal color with use or when treated with mineral oil.

## What thicknesses are available?

For sinks, countertops and backsplashes we use 1-1/4". We also offer 2-1/2" thicknesses (which is often used in fireplaces) as well as 12" x 12" x 1/2" floor tiles.

THE ORIGINAL VERMONT SOAPSTONE QUARRY IN PERKINSVILLE, VERMONT, CIRCA 1870.

# All about soapstone







## SOAPSTONE MAKES EVERYTHING LOOK GOOD.

A soapstone countertop makes a statement. It's luxurious, but down-to-earth. It's dark, but has a special kind of luminescence. It's a strong design element, but complements and enhances any period styling, woodwork, or appliance.

Customers have installed our soapstone countertops in kitchens, bathrooms, vanities, and bars. With soapstone, anything's possible.



# Countertops





## SINKS OF ANY SIZE.

Since our sinks are custom-built, we can make your dream sink a reality. If you can design it, we can build it, and the maintenance is easy because food won't stain it and hot pots won't burn it.

We also offer several standard sinks that are prefabricated and ready to ship on demand in a couple of weeks.



THE WILLIAMS SINK.



A CUSTOM SINK.



THE WRIGHT SINK.



A CUSTOM SINK.

# Soapstone Sinks







## WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

In addition to unique kitchen counters, our soapstone has been used in vanities, shower stalls, bathtubs, bars, benches, table-tops, planters, floors, and all kinds of architectural details. It's also popular in fireplace interiors and trims, in part because soapstone can improve firebox efficiency by 300%. Our soapstone was even specified for a historic restoration of the walkway at Philadelphia's Independence Hall. So, let your imagination run wild—soapstone might be just the element you're looking for...



*Complete Custom Kitchens  
& More*





EVERYTHING FROM FIREPLACES TO FLOORING, TABLETOPS TO PLANTERS.  
*(Fireplace fabricated by Prairie Plus, Oak Park, IL)*

### *It just gets better with age.*

Soapstone sinks that were built 100 years ago (like those found in many New England cellars and barns) are still as attractive as sinks built today. Over time, the edges will tend to soften and some minor nicks and scratches may appear. They can be removed with light sanding, or simply allowed to blend in with the patina.

### *Why do we recommend oiling soapstone?*

In order to avoid an inconsistent color or tone, we recommend applying mineral oil to the surface of the stone. The reason is that, while soapstone is

nonporous (so nothing actually penetrates the surface), any liquid that is spilled or applied will darken the stone (because the light is refracted). Then the stone will lighten again when the liquid is removed either by evaporation or cleaning. The thin layer of oil, (which is so light you won't even feel it) will keep the stone a consistent shade of dark gray.

### *How often does soapstone have to be oiled?*

We recommend weekly for the first couple of months and then monthly, or less, depending on use. The more you use it, the less you have to take care of it.

### *How large can a countertop be?*

Soapstone is quarried in small blocks that yield 30" X 72" slabs. So, longer countertops require more than one piece—although seams can be virtually invisible. Occasionally, longer and wider pieces are quarried and become available.

# *The Care and Feeding of Your Soapstone*





## COME UP FOR A VISIT.

For 160 years we mined soapstone from quarries located near our headquarters in southern Vermont. Today we import stone for our production, visiting quarries and factories on a regular basis to insure consistency and quality. We hand select and finish every piece to order right here in our shop. Often, we're using the same techniques and tools that were used when the company began. Come for a visit, pull up a chair, and let's talk about your project.

Crafted right...here in Vermont.



*We also do the installation*





*Manufacturers of  
custom soapstone sinks,  
countertops, and fireplaces  
for 160 years.*

*Vermont Soapstone Co.*

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