



STORY AND PHOTOS
WALTER FRAN CZYK

ROCK OF AGES

THE PLACE: Owned by Carol and Harvey Clodd, **Delray Granite** fabricates granite, quartz, soapstone and marble countertops. "We specialize in countertops," says Delray sales director Rebecca Czerniawski. Slabs of polished stone, cut-stone samples and backsplash tiles surround the large bright showroom. A fireplace and a nearby granite office counter show how rock can be transformed into beautiful furnishings. A few steps away, Delray's warehouse holds more than 400 large granite slabs from which to choose. "It's very important that you physically see the slab before it's cut," says Rebecca. Small granite samples show only a tiny portion of what a granite slab looks like, she explains. The deeper a granite quarry is mined, the more the rock's colouring changes.

THE STYLE: Granite is growing in popularity as more homeowners become aware of it. "A lot of people like granite because of the natural look," says



Rebecca Czerniawski

Rebecca. "It's very durable, heat resistant and scratch resistant. Unless you don't like the colour, you would never have to replace it." The range of colours and marbling is as eclectic as nature itself.

THE PRODUCTS: Through a door off the showroom, Delray's gleaming factory employs five people who make not only countertops, but also shower walls, vanity tops, fireplace hearths, end tables, pizza ovens, even the occasional kitchen sink. Rebecca and sales associate Brittany Devernish help customers choose rock products, colours and finishes. Estimates are prepared on the spot. Delray installs what it builds.



Brittany Devernish



Randy Hewie

WHAT'S HOT: Many home buyers now look for quartz or granite countertops in kitchens and bathrooms, says Rebecca. "People like something with a natural look and neutral colours." More builders are also using stone. Marble is also a popular stone finish. "A lot of people like the look of it," she says. But because marble is soft and prone to staining, clients can get that marble look from quartz, a much more durable, manufactured stone.

FAVOURITES: "We definitely prefer the look of granite," says Rebecca. "I think everybody here has granite in their homes."

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