

DO I HAVE TO PURCHASE A GRANITE TOP, FAUCET OR SINK FROM COLE & CO.?

Cole & Co. is pleased to offer granite tops, faucet sets, and sinks as a convenience to our customers. You can order only a finished vanity cabinet, or add a top or sink or faucet set - it's all up to you! Our Bathroom in a Box™ option gives you the best value by taking you through six easy steps to select a complete unit - ready to install. We want to help you create the bathroom of your dreams without all the hassle.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CLASSIC VANITY AND ESTATE VANITY?

The Classic has flat-paneled ends (see foldout for illustration) and Queen Anne legs. The Estate features raised-panel ends (see foldout for illustration) and Ball-and-Claw legs. Both are of solid maple and veneer construction and feature fluted radius corners and a decorative skirt above the legs.

HOW ARE THE VANITIES CONSTRUCTED?

Cole & Co.'s Custom Collection vanity begins with the finest hardwood white maple solids and veneers. The doors are assembled using the 5 piece frame and floating panel. The frame stiles and rails are machined to give a multi-surface glue joint for strong adherence. The door panels and side panels float inside the frame using spacing balls, which allows for self-centering, expansion and avoidance of cracking. The frame, round corners, and sides of cabinets are connected using dovetail joining. The back of the vanity is 1/4" maple, from which the select cut is made for plumbing installation.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN THE FINISH PROCESS?

Each vanity is first individually distressed by hand to capture the look of a fine antique. It is then stained or primed, sealed and hand-sanded. The stained pieces are then glazed, shaded, sealed a second time and then dry sanded. Two coats of a conversion varnish, also known as catalyzed laquer, are then applied. The painted pieces are hand-sanded, two coats of base paint and glaze are applied by hand, and finally the piece is burnished and coated with two layers of conversion varnish. Each piece will vary slightly, as the finishes are applied by hand. This quality enhances the value and uniqueness of your piece of fine furniture for the bath.

WHAT IS A CONVERSION VARNISH (CATALYZED LAQUER)?

Unlike a standard lacquer, which can peel or scratch due to its petroleum base, a conversion varnish is significantly more resistant to moisture, bumps and dings, and overall wear-and-tear. The conversion varnish is a man-made laquer that is fiber-based and instead of sitting atop the furniture's stain or paint, actually seeps into and bonds with the wood fibers for a much stronger seal. This varnish will withstand the steam generated by use of showers or steambaths.

ARE THE VANITIES WATERPROOF?

Each vanity has two layers of conversion varnish (or catalyzed laquer) applied to it (see above). They are moisture resistant, not waterproof. As they are furniture, they should be treated like any other piece of fine furniture in your home. They will withstand daily use, just not abuse.

CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE GRANITE?

Cole & Co.'s granite selections were chosen to complement our hand-finishes. Each type of stone is unique and will vary in texture, color and marking. The solid slabs are cut down to exactly fit each size of the Custom Collection vanities and finished with an ogee edge.

WHAT IS AN OGEE EDGE?

The granite tops are hand-finished on the inside and outside edges with an ogee edge detail.

Example of Ogee Edge Detail - Cross Section
Actual edge detail may vary due to scale of top.



CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE FAUCETS?

Cole & Co. offers two faucet selections: The Chelsea and The Lexington. Each are offered in a Satin Nickel or Oil-Rubbed Bronze finish. The Chelsea faucet set features scrolled lever handles with smooth escutcheons and an extra-high arched faucet spout. The Lexington faucet set offers classic lever handles with ribbon-detailed escutcheons and a high arched faucet spout. A lifetime warranty on finish, workmanship and materials for the original purchaser of the faucet is included.

WHAT ARE THE SINKS MADE OF?

The white, biscuit, and black sinks are made of high quality vitreous china (porcelain). The copper sink is hand-hammered out of solid copper with an antiqued finish designed to complement the oil-rubbed bronze finish of the faucets. The inner bowl size is approximately 14" x 17"; outside sink dimension is approximately 16" x 19". Each sink is made by hand, so dimensions may vary slightly.

CAN A HOMEOWNER INSTALL A VANITY?

The sink needs to be mounted underneath the solid surface top and the faucet set and drain pipes will need to be connected, therefore we suggest you contact a licensed plumber or local contractor in your area to install your vanity cabinet.

WHICH SINKS FIT WITH THE PRE-CUT GRANITE TOP?

Cole & Co. offers four selections of 14" x 17" undermount sinks. We have designed the pre-cut granite top to also work with many other leading manufacturer's sinks such as Kohler, American Standard, Porcher, Native Trails, Bates & Bates, Marzi, and St. Thomas.

CAN I SPECIFY CUSTOM CUTS FOR A SPECIFIC SINK OR FAUCET?

The Custom Collection granite tops are pre-cut for a 14" x 17" undermount sink and an 8" faucet spread. Unfortunately, we cannot make custom cuts for our customers for our granite selections. You are welcome to purchase your own piece of granite and have it cut for a specific sink and faucet. Templates are available to assist you should you choose to purchase your own granite top.

HOW DO I CARE FOR MY CUSTOM COLLECTION VANITY?

With two coats of conversion varnish and a solid stone surface, your vanity is a durable fine piece of furniture meant to last for many years with the proper care. A Custom Collection vanity should be cleaned with a slightly damp rag to remove dirt and dust. Occasionally, the use of bee's wax to enhance the finish is acceptable for the conversion varnish. It is important that you do not use a silicone-based cleaner, as it will break down the seal. Acetone and nail polish will also damage and/or eat through the finish.