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Local Countertop Company Reuses Granite



Albuquerque, NM – July 21, 2010—Artisan Group member Rocky Mountain Stone has developed an innovative process for turning its granite scrap into a new, viable finished product. "With the waste we create from cutting custom granite kitchen countertops, we created a unique new product to use as paving stones," says Scott Lardner, president, Rocky Mountain Stone. "From a designer's perspective, we've created the modern look of cobblestone; a collage of color and texture. From an environmentalist's perspective, we have the ultimate green paver." The pavers are made at Rocky Mountain Stone in Albuquerque from 100% recycled materials. They are available in four different shapes: 4- x 8-inch rectangles, 6-inch hexagons, 4-inch scallops, and 4-inch diamonds; colors are variable. After being stamped on a machine, they are tumbled to add texture and slip resistance to the polished face.

"Since each kitchen is a mixture of unique shapes and sizes, there is inevitably about 30% waste out of each slab we cut," Lardner continues. "The larger end cuts are saved in our bone-yard, where consumers have an opportunity here to purchase vanities, fireplace hearths, and other small projects at discounted prices. But there has always been a varying line drawn that separates an 'end cut' or 'remnant' from waste. The waste that was left over used to be saved in another pile at the far end of our yard, and there were stacks and stacks of granite. We try to sell these to our landscaping customers, encouraged by the 'trash-to-treasure' theory. The truth is, though, that these unevenly sized and unfinished pieces of granite and marble are sometimes difficult to use. And so, our stacks grew higher and multiplied. Something had to be done. This is where the idea of a stone stamper was born. We turned our stacks of leftover granite into a unique, attractive, and very durable landscaping product."

Being in a desert environment, Rocky Mountain Stone also takes measures to educate the public about the benefits of Xeriscaping -- landscaping and gardening in ways that reduce or eliminate the need for supplemental water from irrigation. Valuable tips on how to save water in the high desert of New Mexico are available in the company's Yard Sales office.

Along the line of saving water, Rocky Mountain Stone has made water recycling a priority in the shop. "All the water used in our production facility is run through a filtering system to remove waste particles and is returned to the tank to be used again, with 100% efficiency," says Lardner. "The entire shop is run on less than a residential water bill."

Rocky Mountain Stone, Albuquerque, NM

Rocky Mountain Stone was started in 1963 as a supplier of natural building and landscaping stone for the Albuquerque area. Since then, the company has expanded into every aspect of the natural stone industry, and it continues to be a progressive leader in stone fabrication. For more information, visit www.rmstone.com, call 505-345-8518 or visit 4741 Pan American Freeway NE in Albuquerque.

Artisan Group

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