



FEBRUARY 2021

Whether you own a home or are looking to buy or sell one, here are some useful tips, ideas and advice. When you're ready to make your move, give me a call or drop me a line.

HOMEOWNERS' ADVICE



EASY HOME SECURITY

Home security experts agree on one thing - intruders look for homes that appear easiest to break into and escape from quickly. The more obstacles you place in their way, the more likely it is they'll skip over your home and move on to someone else's.

**Lights!** - Nothing says nobody's home like a dark house. This is where landscape lighting is a useful deterrent. Don't give intruders any places in your yard to hide so be sure to install lights on trees. Make your lights come on at dusk and light up entries front and back. Motion detectors work well, too.

**Cameras!** - Cameras placed around the perimeter of your home should be visible from the street so that anyone cruising can see them. You may have noticed on the Internet that cameras are also useful in crime-solving as well as prevention, so security cameras protect your neighbors, too.

**Actions!** - A security system is expensive, but it's a good idea, especially when you put the provider's sign prominently in your front yard. A vigilant barking dog, regardless of its size, can hear and smell intruders before they enter your home. Install prickly bushes under windows and keep them trimmed.

HOMEOWNERS' ADVICE



STONE COUNTERTOP CONFIDENTIAL

There are pros and cons to all types of stone countertops. Knowing the properties of each type will help you make the right choice when you remodel.

**Granite** -TheSpruce.com says there are over 3,000 varieties of granite. Despite its strength, granite can absorb stains unless it's sealed. It can crack if not properly fabricated and installed. Yet, granite's beauty makes it the most popular choice for countertops.

**Soapstone** - Soapstone is a "magnesium-rich metamorphic rock" containing up to 80% talc, making it ideal for carving. However, there is a stronger strain called architectural soapstone that is impervious to staining and scorching. Damage can be sanded out. It requires no sealant, but mineral oil helps develop its patina, which darkens with age.

**Marble** - Marble is frequently used in small amounts such as bathroom countertops. It stains and scratches easily and requires sealant, making it less practical for kitchens. Like granite, marble adds value to the home.

**Quartz** -Engineered stone is made of approximately 93% quartz and the remainder in resins. While granite, soapstone and marble feature artistic veining, quartz is manufactured with uniform patterns and colors. Quartz is more durable and scratch-resistant and doesn't require sealants.



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty  
**Jennifer Dawn**  
 Realtor  
 757-524-0417  
 jennifer.dawn@bhhstowne.com  
 jenniferdawnrealestate.com