



A POLYCOR INC. COMPANY

# PRODUCING NATURALLY SUSTAINABLE GRANITE SINCE 1883

GRANITE CURBING

# HERITAGE OF STONE WORK

Since 1883 our craftsmen have hand selected and crafted our curb products with precision and passion.

## A FAMILY HISTORY, WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE

Founded by Swedish immigrant John Swenson.



## LOYAL AND DEDICATED TEAM

From the moment we cut the granite from our quarry our dedicated staff work tirelessly to provide a quality product to our valued customers, in a timely fashion.



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**Questions? Send our team an inquiry at [curbsales@swensongranite.com](mailto:curbsales@swensongranite.com)**

# NOT ALL CURBING IS CREATED EQUAL

From durability and value to function and sustainability, the advantages of granite curbing from Swenson Granite Works exceed all alternative options.



## AMERICAN MADE

From quarrying the blocks, to cutting curb, at Swenson Granite Works we control the entire process from quarry to completion.

No middle-men! You can rest assured that our stringent quality standards are adhered to throughout the manufacturing process. All of our curb is quarried and manufactured, right here in North America.

With many quarries and several manufacturing facilities, we can support not only our customers needs, but also provide good jobs within the community.



## SUSTAINABILITY

At Swenson Granite Works, sustainability is in our DNA. Our products are 100% natural, organic, and created by Mother Nature herself!

While the environment is the major element of sustainability, the origin of the stone you buy is very important as well. Locally quarried natural stone has its advantages and the impact you have on your community is of utmost importance.

At Swenson Granite Works we are diligently working to become carbon neutral.



## IN-STOCK, ON-TIME

Whether your project requires 20 or 20,000 linear feet, we maintain a vast inventory from our own quarry and manufacturing facility to handle projects of any scope and size.

Need custom sizes? Call us, tell us what you need, and we will go above and beyond to hit your deadlines.

**LOW MAINTENANCE  
GRANITE CURB  
TYPES & STYLES**



**SLOPE CURBING**



**VERTICAL  
CURBING  
IN STRAIGHT  
& RADIUS**





## **MOUNTABLE STRAIGHT AND RADIUS CURBING**

## **DRIVEWAY CORNERS**



## **TRANSITIONS**

# 10 TECHNICAL ADVANTAGES OF USING GRANITE CURBING FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT

Functional elements are often the most important factors to consider when selecting curbing for commercial, residential and public properties. While the visual appeal of granite curbing speaks for itself, this versatile option offers a range of technical benefits for property owners to consider when planning their next project.

## Granite curbing can be used for the following projects:

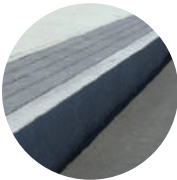
- State highways (Department of Transportation projects)
- Municipalities for roadway/sidewalk improvements
- Colleges/schools/universities
- Residential and commercial developments

### 1. LIFELONG DURABILITY



Durability is critical for roadside curbing—especially in harsh climates with varying weather conditions and ice-melting chemicals. “Granite is naturally durable and holds up to the freeze-thaw cycle of New England weather,” explains Leslie Shea, Manager of Granite Curbing Sales.

### 2. COST SAVINGS



Some contractors choose cast concrete based on the assumption that it is less costly than granite. However, when the long-term costs of concrete maintenance, repairs and disposal are considered, this is far from correct. As an added bonus, granite is routinely removed and reset during road construction projects.

### 3. VIRTUALLY MAINTENANCE-FREE



Upkeep is important to consider before installing curbing, as routine maintenance can become costly and time-consuming. Concrete curbing materials can require everything from regular sealant applications to frequent repairs. Granite provides a virtually maintenance-free option. Choosing granite will eliminate the costs of preventative upkeep, repairs, and replacements.

#### 4. SUSTAINABILITY



Granite offers a greener alternative that can be reset or repurposed in the future. The Guardian calls concrete “the most destructive material on earth”, explaining that the cement industry emits up to 2.8 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. When concrete reaches the end of its lifecycle, it usually goes to a landfill, which has a further negative impact on the environment. At Swenson Granite Works we are working diligently to become carbon neutral.

#### 5. ADDS VALUE TO PROPERTIES



High-quality granite curbing is an investment that can add both value and visual appeal to any applicable use. On the other hand, cracked and damaged curbs (concrete and asphalt) can lower the value of an otherwise desirable property. Granite curbing creates a premium look and feel that can significantly benefit the resale of commercial property. While other materials will erode over time, granite curbing will remain intact and maintain its value for a lifetime.

#### 6. WITHSTANDS EXTREME CONDITIONS



Asphalt milling, often leaves curbs susceptible to damage from heavy machinery. Due to its resilient structural properties, granite curb can be left safely in place without damage during road milling. Weather-related maintenance can also pose a risk to concrete curbing. Road salt will erode concrete, causing it to crack and crumble. Granite has the highest density and strength of any curbing material and will easily withstand erosion in even the harshest conditions.

#### 7. PROLONGS THE LIFE OF ASPHALT



Curbing keeps pavement intact by protecting the edges from cracking due to freezing and thawing, heavy moisture, and impact from motor vehicles and snow plows. “Because the granite is more durable and will last longer than concrete, it holds the asphalt in place,” says Shea. “When concrete deteriorates, then the same is going to happen to the asphalt, as there is no longer a protective barrier.”

## 8. SIMPLIFIES LAWN CARE



Granite curbing can help property owners protect areas from the adverse effects of vehicles and snow plows. Over time, grass and weeds can travel from the lawn and spring up through cracks in the asphalt, which can lead to further pavement damage. Granite curbing can act as a root barrier, separating landscaping from the paved area.

## 9. CREATES A VISUAL AND STRUCTURAL LANDSCAPE BARRIER



Granite curbing accentuates the elements of commercial, residential and public properties. Not only can it be used to line a parking lot or roadway, but for a cohesive appearance, it can border landscape features, such as garden beds or walkways. During heavy precipitation, granite curbing can also prevent landscape material from washing away.

## 10. READILY AVAILABLE AND CUSTOMIZABLE



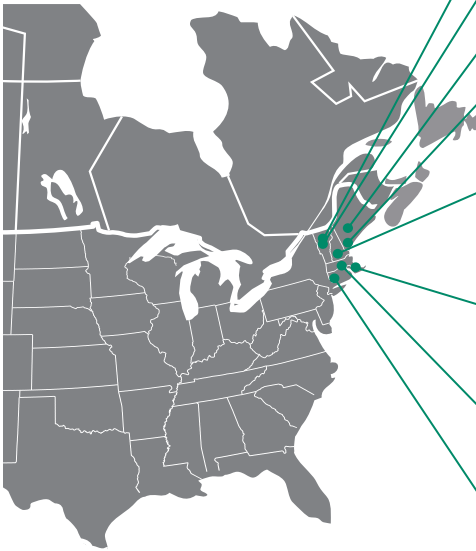
"We produce year-round, so we have a high volume of material in stock for the common granite curbing sizes" says Shea. Swenson also custom fabricates granite products to accommodate specialty hardscape and masonry projects. Visit your local Swenson Granite Works retail location to learn more.







- Swenson Granite Works produces granite curbing each year at their state-of-the-art production facility.
- Swenson Granite Works carries a vast inventory of curbing at all times.



**WOODBURY GRAY QUARRY**  
Woodbury, VT, U.S.A.

**BARRE GRAY QUARRY**  
Barre, VT, USA

**JAY WHITE QUARRY**  
Jay, ME, U.S.A.

**WESTBROOK STORE**  
Westbrook, ME, U.S.A.

**CONCORD GRAY QUARRY & MANUFACTURING PLANT**  
Concord, NH, U.S.A.

**AMHERST STORE**  
Amherst, NH, U.S.A.

**CONCORD STORE**  
Concord, NH, U.S.A.

**HANOVER STORE**  
Hanover, MA, U.S.A.

**ROWLEY STORE**  
Rowley, MA, U.S.A.

**SHREWSBURY STORE**  
Shrewsbury, MA, U.S.A.

**SOUTH HADLEY STORE**  
South Hadley, MA, U.S.A.

**MEDWAY STORE**  
Medway, MA, U.S.A.

**NEWTOWN STORE**  
Newtown, CT, U.S.A.

# LIFECYCLE COST COMPARISON GRANITE VS PRECAST CURBING

Updated by Dr. John Collura, P.E. - Department of Civil Engineering  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST

The physical comparison leaves no doubt that granite is the best curbing material available today. Its initial cost is higher than that of precast PCC curb but it has lower maintenance costs. Granite curb also lasts longer than precast PCC and offers other advantages because of its durability. The economical comparison presented in this report will consider this tradeoff between costs and durability.

- **Initial Cost to Consider** – material, labor, scope and size of project and replacement costs should be reviewed and be carefully weighed prior to making your decision
- **Practicality** – Granite curbing will last an indefinite time with little to no maintenance and thinner granite curbing may be used in many situations to help with the overall cost. Thinner precast curbing is not recommended and needs to be replaced every 10-20 years.
- **Recurring Costs** – Once granite curbing is installed, the chances of needing to touch it again is rare. With precast curbing the recommendation is to treat the product with periodic sealing, this will help to lengthen the life. In 1988 the Massachusetts DPW paid, on average, \$1.96 per linear foot to remove and discard curb (6). Current prices to remove and discard are approximately \$4.86 per linear foot (7). Disposal prices will continue to rise faster than other prices as remaining landfill space becomes more valuable.
- **Life Expectancy** – Once your project has been completed in granite you will not need to treat or replace the stone. With precast curbing, the product will need to be replaced every 10-20 years if properly maintained. Two life expectancies of precast PCC will be examined: ten and twenty years.

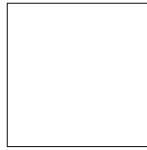
*The twenty-year life expectancy is based on a study by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (8). This study examined twelve- to fourteen-year-old samples of precast PCC curb and concluded that they should last six to eight more years. This would result in an effective service life of twenty years. It is not known whether this curbing received any preventative maintenance. The twenty-year life span is consistent with the design life of many urban roads. Precast PCC curb normally is replaced in conjunction with reconstruction.*

*The ten-year life span was included to show what the life cycle cost would be if the precast PCC curb did not last twenty years. Lab testing indicates this possibility should not be ruled out, especially if precast PCC curb is being considered for installation in a region that experiences harsher winters than Rhode Island.*

- **Comparison Conclusion** - The physical comparison clearly indicated that granite is a superior curb material in New England where winters, road salt, and plowing are tough on Portland cement concrete. The economic analysis indicated that when the inevitable replacement of precast PCC is considered, granite curb is a less expensive curb material. The only advantage of using precast PCC curb is its lower initial cost. This advantage is outweighed, however, by granite's durability, longevity, and reusability.

*For the full report on the Lifecycle Cost Comparison by the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, see our website.*





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