

## NATURAL STONE CARE



### **GENERAL CARE**

- Do not apply too much weight to any one spot, as this may cause the granite countertop to crack.
- Do not sit or stand on the countertop's surface.
- Also, be observant of what wall decorations hang over the stone countertops. If the hanging decorations are heavy and fall onto the surface, the natural stone may crack under the stress.
- Always use coasters under cups and drinking glasses.
- Do not use the countertop as a cutting board, as this may scratch the stone.
- Always place heat-resistant mats under kitchen or bath appliances, dishes, or china.
- Regularly dust granite countertops, islands, and vanities.
- Regularly clean stone surfaces with warm water and a soft cloth, or check with a local Granite Expo for a specialty cleaning agent.
- Blot spills immediately.
- Non-evaporating liquids (exg: oils) that are not blotted within 1-2 minutes will stain.
- Evaporating liquids such as water, wine, and grape juice will temporarily leave a dark spot, but may stain if the stone countertop or surface is not properly sealed.
- Avoid placing excessive weight on these surfaces. Sitting or standing on them is not recommended.
- Avoid sudden/rapid changes in temperature as this may cause damage to the surface.

### **CLEANING**

- Granite countertops and surfaces need to be cleaned regularly to maintain their natural sheen and vitality.

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- In the event of a spill, blot the spill with a paper towel immediately. Don't wipe the area, as this will spread the spill into your countertop. Flush the area with plain water and mild soap, then rinse several times. Dry the area thoroughly with a soft cloth. Repeat as necessary.
- Clean granite surfaces with a few drops of non-acidic soap scum remover, a mild liquid dishwashing detergent, or denatured alcohol.
- Use a specialty cleaning agent made for natural stone. These specialty cleaning agents will remove oil, residue, and help clean up everyday food or bath and beauty product spills.
- Thoroughly rinse and dry the surface after washing.
- Too much cleaner or soap may leave a film and cause streaks.
- Do not use products that contain lemon, vinegar, or other acid content that may etch the surface.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, such as dry cleaners or soft cleansers.
- Do not use cleaners that contain acids such as bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners, or tile cleaners.
- Do not apply acetone or any type of paint thinner.
- Keep in mind that spills of certain chemicals – especially acids or alkali products – will permanently stain the stone. Therefore, it is important to consider sealing granite countertops and surfaces for an extra layer of protection and to carefully observe prevention measures.
- Do not mix bleach and ammonia. This combination creates a toxic and lethal gas.
- Frequent or over-use of soap scum remover could result in dulling the surface of the stone.

### **SEALING**

- Re-application of sealer is recommended after 1-2 years, which can be easily done at home.
- Different types of natural stone surfaces require different resealing frequency.
- All-natural stone is porous and should be sealed before use. Sealing will make the granite surface more durable against wear and tear.
- Sealer comes in water-based or oil-based variants and can have a natural or glossy finish. Water-based sealers are easier to apply and safer for the environment. If your granite countertop has a shiny

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polished surface, avoid using a sealer with a glossy finish. Applying sealer in most cases is quite simple, does not require any special tools, and can be completed in a few minutes.

- Wait at least 72 hours after the initial installation before applying sealer.
- Before sealing, it's important to clean the granite countertop. A mild liquid detergent usually does the trick, but use denatured alcohol for the best results.
- After cleaning, completely dry the surface.
- Apply the sealer according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Wait at least 2 hours before applying an additional coat. Generally, one coat is sufficient, but you may want to apply as many as three coats in a high traffic area.
- Test your granite countertops to see if they need an additional coat by applying a few drops of water to the surface. The water droplets should not be absorbed by the granite. If they get absorbed within a few minutes, it needs an additional coat of sealer.

### **FOOD SAFETY**

- Natural stone is not approved by the National Sanitation Foundation International for meeting food preparation standards because it is highly porous and absorbs moisture.