



To get the longest life and preserve the beauty of your natural stone, follow these simple tips:

Coasters: Use coasters under all glasses, particularly those containing alcohol or citrus juices.

Trivets: While many stones can withstand heat, the use of trivets or mats is recommended.

Spills: Blot the spill with a paper towel immediately. Don't wipe the area, it will spread the spill. Flush the area with water and mild soap and rinse several times. Dry the area thoroughly with a soft cloth. Repeat as necessary.

Cleaning:

- Clean stone surfaces with a neutral cleaner, stone soap, or a mild liquid dishwashing detergent and warm water.
- Similar to any item cleaned in your home, an excessive concentration of cleaner or soap may leave a film and cause streaks.

Follow manufacturer recommendations:

- Rinse the surface thoroughly after washing with the soap solution and dry with a soft cloth.
- Change the rinse water frequently.
- In the bath or other wet areas, soap scum can be minimized by using a squeegee after each use. To remove soap scum, use a non-acidic soap scum remover or a solution of ammonia and water (about 1/2 cup ammonia to a gallon of water). Frequent or over-use of an ammonia solution may eventually dull the surface of some stone types.
- In outdoor pool, patio or hot tub areas, flush with clear water and use mild bleach solution to remove algae or moss.

Cleaning Products:

- Many suppliers offer products used for stone cleaning.
- Products containing lemon, vinegar or other acids may dull or etch calcareous stones.
- Scouring powders or creams often contain abrasives that may scratch certain stones.
- Many commercially available rust removers (laundry rust stain removers, toilet bowl cleaners) contain trace levels of hydrofluoric acid (HF). This acid attacks silicates in addition to other minerals. All stones, including granite and quartzite, will be attacked if exposed to HF.
- Do not mix ammonia and bleach. This combination creates a toxic and lethal gas.

Sealing:

Sealing is a common step taken on some stones as an extra precaution against staining. In fact, the sealing products used in the stone industry are 'impregnators' which do not actually seal the stone, but more correctly act as a repellent rather than a sealer. Sealing does not make the stone stain proof; rather it makes the stone more stain resistant. When considering sealing, remember that sealing the stone does not make the stone stain proof, it makes it more resistant to staining. If a sealer is applied in a food preparation area, be sure that it is non-toxic and safe for use. Consult with your supplier or sealing manufacturer specific to the type of sealer and frequency of use recommended.

*** Our fabricator recommends that all natural stone countertops be re-sealed on a yearly basis to prevent against staining.

The regular use of our 3-N-1 cleaner/polisher/sealer will help as well but does NOT work in the place of an impregnating sealer which can be purchased from Home Depot, Lowes or other home improvement stores. The only exception to this would be if you have chosen to upgrade to our 15 year Dry Treat Sealer. Even then we would suggest semi-regularly "testing" areas of heavy use to see if additional sealer needs to be applied. This can be done by taking a spray bottle of water and applying a small amount to the stone – if the water stays beaded up on the countertop then the sealer is still doing its job, if the water begins to absorb into the top additional sealer should be applied as a precaution. ***