

Common Sense

Dusting your tops frequently should be enough to keep small abrasive particles from scratching the surface.

Rinse with water immediately after spills occur. Sealers and waxes can't protect your tops from extended exposure to certain substances like coffee, sodas, oil, etc. Keep a stone soap handy in case you need it.

Protect your tops from heat, extended humidity, acidity and strong substances like alcohol and general purpose cleaners or alkaline cleaners not formulated for natural stone. These are some substances to avoid:

- Vinegar
- Alcohol
- Ammonia
- Windex®
- Bleach
- Cleansers
- Abrasives
- Oily Products

Cool tips

Let it breath

Since Natural stone is a porous material, "it needs to breath"; that is, it does not like to be covered for too long.

Switch the position of your small appliances, your cutting board, or your vanity decorative items so that your tops are not covered for extended periods. This will prevent the stone from creating fungus, a common problem that may stain your natural stone.

Don't be rough

Use pads or mats under glasses, small appliances, and any object that may scratch your tops.

These stone care basic tips have been provided as a courtesy of Expo Marble & Granite

STONE CARE BASICS



Taking care of the important investment you have just made is easy and economic.

Allow yourself some time to review these basic instructions on how to maintain the beauty of your new natural or engineered stone tops.

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How to Clean

There is a golden rule in stone care:

Do not use anything you would not use to clean your hands.

Blot spills immediately.

Clean with a pH-balanced cleaner and clean cloth. "pH" means potential of Hydrogen, and is used to measure the acidity or alkalinity of a solution. A pH balanced cleaner is a neutral solution, meaning that it will measure a 7 on the pH scale of 0-14.

You may also use a stone cleaner (available at most hardware stores) or a small amount of ordinary dish soap (white or clear) and water to wipe down your surface

Although you could use diluted window cleaner (50% water, 50% cleaner), it is not recommended as users tend to over use it. Do not use old kitchen sponges, they may contain oil from your dishes and leave a film on your surface.

How to Seal

Not all sealers work the same on all materials

Sealing is the process of applying a uniform coat of a solution to your top in order to delay its chemical reaction or even its absorption of undesirable substances. The key word is "delay". No sealer will protect 100% your top if appropriate maintenance and cleaning practices are not kept.

From the wide variety of sealers in the market, there is one for your specific top. Natural stone is best protected with fluoropolymer-based sealers. Be sure to get the right sealer for your top.

You have chosen a material that has its own features. Don't try to match the shine or look with another person's material. It's impossible.

Some products may enhance, darken, or even ruin the aspect of your natural or engineered stone tops. Ask your provider before applying any product.

How to Repair

Spills cannot be avoided completely, and in the case of major damage to the stone, professional refinishing may be the only way to get rid of etch marks. Etch marks are created by very acidic substances such as fruit juices, coffee, wine, vinegar, ketchup, mustard, and sodas.

Some minor closed cracks that are intrinsic to the nature of the stone may open up if the top has been subject to heavy weight, for instance, if someone sits or stands on it; blemishes may also occur if the stone has been hit by a heavy object. A professional stone craftsman may be able to fix most of these problems by using sealants, waxes, and other compounds.

Replacing a piece should be your last resource, as matching the color and patterns of a top with a new stone is almost impossible. As the stone ages after installation, color changes, and you probably will not find an exact match.

No guaranty covers repairs to problems caused by the owner; nevertheless, some professional installers may offer maintenance packages that include buffing the tops and repairing minor blemishes. Ask your provider about this option as it is worth the investment.