



CARE & MAINTENANCE

Natural Stone countertops, such as granite, marble, quartzite and soapstone, are not only stunning additions to your home but also require the proper care and maintenance to retain their beauty and durability for years to come. Below we have listed out a few guidelines to ensure your natural stone countertops remain in pristine condition.

DAILY CLEANING

1. **Use Gentle Cleaners:** Clean spills promptly using a pH-balanced, non-abrasive, and non-acidic stone cleaner. Avoid harsh chemicals like bleach or ammonia, as they can damage the stone's finish.
2. **Warm Water and Mild Soap:** For routine cleaning, mix a few drops of mild dish soap with warm water. Wipe down the countertop with a soft cloth or sponge and rinse thoroughly.
3. **Soft Cloth or Sponge:** Use a soft cloth or sponge to clean the surface. Avoid abrasive materials that could scratch the stone.

PREVENTING DAMAGE

1. **Use Cutting Boards:** Avoid cutting directly on the stone surface. Always use cutting boards to prevent scratches and nicks.
2. **Protect from Heat:** use trivets or hot pads under hot pans, pots, or appliances to prevent thermal shock, which can cause cracks and/or discoloration.
3. **Avoid Heavy Impact:** Don't drop heavy objects on the countertop, as this can cause chipping or cracking.
4. **Use Coasters and Mats:** Place coasters under glasses to protect from condensation and mats under containers to prevent stains from acidic substances like citrus juices and beverages.

STAIN PREVENTION

1. **Wipe Up Spills Promptly:** Accidental spills should be wiped up immediately to prevent staining, especially for substances like wine, oils, and acidic liquids.
2. **Seal Regularly:** Depending on the type of stone, sealing is crucial to prevent staining. Granite and marble typically require sealing every 6 to 12 months, while quartzite and soapstone need less frequent sealing.

SEALING

1. **Test the Stone:** Perform a water droplet test to determine if your countertop needs sealing. If water drops are absorbed into the surface of the stone within 10-15 minutes, it's time to reseal.
2. **Choose the Right Sealer:** Consult with your fabricator on selecting the right stone sealer based on your natural stone.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Marble Care:** Marble is more susceptible to etching from acids. Be cautious with acidic foods, liquids, and cleaning products.
2. **Granite Care:** While Granite is highly durable, proper care and maintenance is essential. Regularly clean with a pH-balanced stone cleaner and always promptly wipe up spills.
3. **Quartzite Care:** Quartzite is generally more durable than marble but still requires sealing and careful treatment.
4. **Soapstone Care:** Soapstone darkens over time and develops a natural patina. You can oil soapstone to enhance its appearance and protect it from stains.

PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE

1. **Regular Inspections:** Periodically inspect the countertop for signs of wear, chipping or cracking. Address any issues promptly with your fabricator.
2. **Polishing and Restoration:** Engage professional stone restoration from your fabricator for polishing, repairing, and/or restoring the stone's original appearance if it becomes damaged or worn.

By following these care and maintenance guidelines, you can ensure that your natural stone countertops remain a stunning and functional focal point in your home for many years. Always refer to the specific care instructions provided by the fabricator for the best results.