



601 6th St. N.W.
Maple Lake, MN 55358

Care and Maintenance of Natural Stone

The natural stone you have purchased is an investment that will give you many years of beautiful service. Your tops may contain natural fissures, voids, veining, & other geological flaws. Nature created the color, veining & other characteristics unique to your material and it should be enjoyed for its beauty and individuality. Simple care and maintenance will keep your tops looking beautiful for decades.

Sealing:

Your natural stone tops have been sealed prior to installation. Most natural stone should be sealed every 1-4 years, with some requiring less frequent sealing. Sealing is an easy process that requires minimal time and effort and will assist in maintaining the beauty of your tops, by creating a repellent barrier.

Care & Precautions

Natural stone can be classified into two general categories according to its composition: Siliceous or Calcareous. Siliceous types of stone are composed mainly of silica & quartz like particles and include granite, slate, and quartzite. Calcareous types of stone are composed mainly of calcium carbonate and include marble, travertine, limestone and onyx. Knowing the difference between these two types of stone is important in selecting the correct cleaning products for your stone.

Calcareous stones are sensitive to acidic products and frequently require different cleaning procedures than siliceous stone. Do not use products that contain lemon, vinegar or other acids on calcareous stones. Varying finishes (polished, honed, satin, antiqued, or flamed) of the natural stone may also affect the cleaning products/procedures used.

Cleaning Recommendations:

- ÿ Always test your cleaning product on the most inconspicuous location before using the product on the rest of your tops.
- ÿ Clean your surfaces with a specially formulated neutral cleaner for natural stone tops or a mild dishwashing detergent and warm water. Rinse the surface thoroughly after washing and dry with a soft cloth. Too much cleaner or soap may leave a film and cause streaks.
- ÿ Blot up any spills as soon as possible. Many common foods and drinks contain acids that may dull or etch the surface of many stones.

Don'ts:

- ÿ **Don't use vinegar, lemon juice, or any other cleaners containing acids on marble, limestone, travertine or onyx surfaces at any time. Use minimally on polished granite.**
- ÿ **Don't use cleaners that contain acid (i.e. bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners, tub & tile cleaners) or abrasive cleaners (i.e. dry or soft cleansers) on any stones.**

Miscellaneous Items:

- ÿ If cleaners aren't enough to remove dried food, paint, glues, etc., from your tops a safety razor blade may be used. Using slight pressure and laying the blade almost flat is frequently enough to remove these residues. You may also use #0000 steel wool to remove dried water spots, hazy areas, and residue. Always use slight pressure when using steel wool or razor blades. Never use steel wool wet.

Scratching and staining on granite surfaces is rare because of the material's hardness. If you have stained your stone, don't worry. As it is a natural stone and has porosity, the stain may be removed by reversing the staining process using a poultice paste. Stains should be identified and treated as soon as possible. For more information, please give us a call or visit the Marble Institute of America website www.marble-institute.com or usenaturalstone.com.