

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.

When considering sealing, remember that sealing the stone **does not make the stone stain proof, it makes it more resistant to staining.**

Cleaning:

- Clean stone surfaces with a neutral cleaner, stone soap, or a mild liquid dishwashing detergent and warm water.
- Like any item cleaned in your home, an excessive concentration of cleaner or soap may leave a film and cause streaks. Follow manufacturer recommendations.
- Use a clean rag mop on floors and a soft cloth for other surfaces for the best results.
- 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.

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). HF attacks silicate 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 consulting with your stone supplier, you may find that many stones do not require sealing. However, applying an impregnating sealer is a common practice.
- If a sealer is applied in a food preparation area, be sure that it is non-toxic and safe for use.

Honed Materials

The use of marble, soapstone and honed materials (especially in a kitchen) requires an educated customer. Honed marble, soapstone and granite can be susceptible to staining, scratching and etching. Everyday wear and tear occur on all marble, soapstone and honed material countertops and due to the nature of the material there is no specific prevention that can keep this from happening.

Honed marble, soapstone and granite are very absorbent and can easily stain or get watermarks if not taken care of properly. Any spill that is not cleaned up immediately may penetrate the stone; therefore spills need to be cleaned up immediately.

Honed marble, soapstone and granite need to be cleaned with soap and water only and no products with ammonia or any acidic ingredient can be used to clean the surface.

Non resined honed marble, soapstone and granite tops need to be sealed every 3 to 6 months; however, sealing your tops does not guarantee that your tops will not stain.

Most slabs of white marble and soapstone will have a few small pits and scratches when they arrive at our fabrication shop. The pitting cannot be filled and only the shallowest of scratches can be removed without damaging the surface. Countertops made from white marbles and soapstone will usually arrive at the end user's home with some of the above-mentioned characteristics. Precision Stonework's will not attempt to correct these occurrences, and their presence does not deem a countertop unacceptable. In addition, seams in white marble and soapstone countertops will be more obvious than seams in darker granites. At times, a faint shadowing can occur on either side of the seam from the adhesive.

Other marbles and exotic granites often have a mesh backing. This backing is due to the inherent fissures and cracks found in the block. The backing is placed on the underside of the cut slabs before the slabs are resined and polished. It is very common to see "closed" fissures and small cracks within slabs of these materials. Obviously, they will also be seen on the finished countertop. It is also common that the slab processing factory will fill voids in marbles, travertine's, limestones and exotic materials with various colors of resin or epoxy prior to surface polishing. We, the fabricator, will not try to change the color or "perceived" quality of a factory "fill".

When using marbles, soapstone and exotic granites, it is very important to take special care to keep other tradesmen off the countertops following installation.

Please be reminded to monitor the work that occurs by other trades following your countertop installation. Repairs of these materials can be very costly.

There is no cosmetic warranty on marble, soapstone or honed material.