



Stone Care & Maintenance

To help your investment stay elegant for many years to come, here are some easy maintenance tips for you to follow. At our shop a commercial-grade sealer is applied to all stone before installation. This process can also be provided for customers with existing stone needing a seal. We recommend re-sealing your granite every 6-24 months depending on usage and testing it every 6 months. A simple way to test your granite to see if it needs to be resealed is by placing a wet cloth on your stone for 20 minutes. Remove the cloth and wipe the surface. If there is a spot visible where the cloth was sitting it is time to reseat your stone.

We also recommend using a natural stone cleaner on a routine basis for granite, our preferred product is a 3-In-1 Spray Cleaner that is available in our showroom. This product is formulated with consumer grade sealer, cleaner and polish that protects your granite counters while you clean and restores their natural shine and lustre keeping them looking brand new. It also works great on the polished chrome and stainless steel in the rest of your home.

For everyday use, clean surfaces with mild soap and water.

DO

- Do clean surfaces with mild soap and water or a specially formulated granite cleaner
- Do thoroughly rinse and dry the surface after washing
- Do blot up spills immediately
- Do use pot holders, trivets, coasters and cutting boards

DON'T

- Don't use vinegar, lemon juice or other cleaners containing acids
- Don't use cleaners that contain acid such as bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners or tub & tile cleaners
- Don't use abrasive cleaners such as dry or soft cleansers
- Don't cut directly on your stone
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Testing your Granite

A simple way to test your granite to see if it needs to be resealed is by placing a wet cloth on your stone for 20 minutes. Remove the cloth and wipe the surface. If there is a spot visible where the cloth was sitting it is time to reseat your stone.

Spills

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

Stains

Identifying the type of stain on the stone surface is the key to removing it. If you don't know what caused the stain, play detective. Where is the stain located? Is it near a plant, a food service area, an area where cosmetics are used? What colour is it? What is the shape or pattern? What goes on in the area of the stain?

Surface stains can often be removed by cleaning with an appropriate cleaning product or household chemical. Deep seated or stubborn stains may require using a poultice or calling in a professional. **Caution: Follow directions carefully when you use chemicals to remove stains.** Always "remove the stain remover" as soon as its job has been done.

Types of Stains and Stain Removal

Oil Based (grease, tar, cooking oil, milk, cosmetics)

An oil-based stain will darken the stone and normally must be chemically dissolved so the source of the stain can be flushed or rinsed away. Clean gently with a soft, liquid cleanser with bleach, household detergent, ammonia, mineral spirits or acetone.

Organic (coffee, tea, fruit, tobacco, paper, food, wine)

May cause a pinkish-brown stain and may disappear after the source of the stain has been removed. Outdoors, with the sources removed, normal sun and rain action will generally bleach out the stains. Indoors, clean with 12% hydrogen peroxide and a few drops of ammonia.

Metal (iron, rust, copper, bronze)

Iron or rust stains are orange to brown in color and follow the shape of the staining object such as nails, bolts, screws, cans, etc. Copper and bronze stains appear as green or muddy-brown and result from the action of moisture on nearby or embedded bronze, copper or brass items. Metal stains must be removed with a poultice.

Ink (magic marker, pen, ink)

For light colored stone, clean with bleach or hydrogen peroxide. For dark colored stones clean with lacquer thinner or acetone.

Paint

Small amounts can be removed with lacquer thinner or scraped off carefully with a razorblade. Heavy paint coverage should be removed only with a commercial "heavy liquid" paint stripper available from hardware stores and paint centers. These strippers normally contain caustic soda or lye. Do not use acids or flame tools to strip paint from stone. Paint strippers can etch the surface of the stone; re-polishing may be necessary. Follow the manufacturer's directions for use of these products, taking care to flush the area thoroughly with clean water. Protect yourself with rubber gloves and eye protection, and work in a well-ventilated area. Use only wood or plastic scrapers for removing the sludge and curdled paint.

For additional information on removing stains, please visit contact our Service Department at 403-235-5224. Another great resource is the Marble Institute of America's website, www.marble-institute.com. Select Consumer Resources tab then click on Natural Stone Care and Cleaning; or Natural Stone Stain Removal.