

Natural Stone Countertop Care & Maintenance

Natural Stone Countertops have not only proven to be durable, but can add great value to your home. Natural Stone Countertop materials include: Granite, Marble, Quartzite & Soapstone. Refer to our Natural Stone Countertop Care and Maintenance sheet to keep your natural stone countertops like new.

Please visit our website at www.ivocabinets.com for additional info.

CLEANING & BARKEEPERS FRIEND

Wipe up and clean spills as soon as you notice them. Leaving spills for a long time, even on a previously sealed material, can cause staining.

“Bar Keepers Friend” is a PH neutral, nonabrasive cleaning product to keep your surfaces clean without affecting the finish. Prolonged use of any cleaner, including dish soap, can leave a dull film on a polished surface. This can be removed with a granite cleaner or repolishing depending upon the exposure.

When cleaning, **DO NOT USE** harsh or abrasive cleaners and sponges. Windex and other acidic cleaners like vinegar, lemon, lime, or any cleaner with ammonia or bleach, will dull and weaken the sealant over time. The harsher the chemical, the quicker it will break down the sealant and the natural components of the stone.

COUNTERTOP SEALER

Make sure your natural stone countertop is always properly sealed. We recommend you seal your stone surface every year as necessary. We offer extended sealer products, which may extend the longevity of your sealant for up to 15 years if properly maintained. We recommend you seal marble about every 3-6 months.

TIP: *To check whether your countertop is sealed properly, leave a few drops of water on the surface. If it beads up, you have a secure seal. If after a few minutes the water has soaked into the surface, then it's time to reseal the stone.*

HEAT RESISTANCE & DAMAGE

When Cooking **DO NOT** place hot glass bowls like Pyrex or CorningWare dishes directly onto a natural stone countertop. Hot glass bowls or dishes may crack, break or shatter when placed directly on a natural stone surface, which by nature are cooler than room temp by approximately 10 degrees.

ALWAYS use place-mats or trivets under china, ceramics, and silverware (anything that can scratch) when placing them on soft material like soapstone, marble and travertine. Use wax or mineral oil on soapstone to remove or reduce the appearance of scratches.

Any natural stone can chip and stain. Use coasters under glasses containing alcohol, soda, or fruit juices on material prone to etching, such as marble, soapstone or travertine which tend to be softer and more porous surfaces.

DURABILITY

DO NOT sit or stand on countertops. While countertops can be made of stone, they are not indestructible.

CLEANING YOUR NATURAL STONE COUNTERTOPS

1. In a spray bottle, mix 5-6 drops of mild dish soap and rubbing alcohol with water to create a cleaning solution. Shake it and spray. NOTE: Make sure to shake before every use.
2. Before utilizing your cleaning solution, make sure your surface is free of food debris & stains. Wipe down your countertop surface with cleaning solution.
3. Dry and buff your natural countertop thoroughly with a microfiber cloth or soft terry cloth towel to avoid streaking.
4. Shine and disinfect with a water and isopropyl alcohol solution. Mix together a 50:50 solution of water and 91% isopropyl alcohol to periodically disinfect your stone countertops, remove soap residue, and restore shine. Spray onto the surface, allow to sit for 3-5 minutes, dry with a clean microfiber cloth.