

Natural Stone Care & Maintenance

Your natural stone is a beautiful investment. With proper care, it will last for years while maintaining its natural beauty. Follow these simple guidelines:

Daily Care

- **Use coasters** under all glasses, especially those with alcohol or citrus.
- **Use trivets or mats** under hot dishes, even though many stones can handle heat.
- **Clean spills immediately.**
 - Blot (don't wipe) to prevent spreading.
 - Rinse with mild soap and warm water.
 - Dry thoroughly with a soft cloth.

Cleaning Tips

- Clean with a **mild dishwashing detergent** and warm water.
- **Avoid acidic cleaners** such as lemon, vinegar, or products containing acids, they can dull or etch stone.
- Do **not use abrasive cleaners** or scouring powders—they can scratch the surface.
- Avoid products with **hydrofluoric acid (HF)**- they damage all natural stones, including granite and quartzite.
- **Never mix ammonia and bleach**—this combination creates toxic gas.

Sealing

Sealing helps make stone more resistant to stains, but not stain-proof.

- Sealers used for stone are “impregnators” that act as repellents rather than barriers.
- Some stones don't require sealing—check with your supplier.
- When in doubt, sealing is a safe and common practice to add protection.

Stain Identification

Knowing what caused the stain is key to removal. Stains can be:

- Oil-based
- Organic
- Metallic
- Biological
- Ink or paint-based
- Acidic

Stain Removal

Use the following guidelines for different types of stains:

Oil-Based (grease, cosmetics, cooking oil)

→ Clean gently with detergent, mineral spirits, or acetone.

Organic (coffee, tea, wine, food, paper, etc.)

→ Clean with 12% hydrogen peroxide and a few drops of ammonia.

Metal (rust, copper, bronze)

→ Use a poultice made for metal stain removal.

Biological (algae, mildew, moss, fungi)

→ Clean with a diluted solution of ½ cup ammonia, bleach, or hydrogen peroxide in 1 gallon of water.

(Do not mix bleach and ammonia.)

Ink (pens, markers)

→ Light stones: bleach or hydrogen peroxide.

→ Dark stones: lacquer thinner or acetone.

Paint

→ Small spots: scrape gently with a razor blade or use lacquer thinner.

→ Heavy coverage: use a commercial paint stripper (containing lye or caustic soda).

→ Rinse thoroughly with water and wear protective gear.

Common Surface Issues

Water Spots or Rings – Buff gently with dry 0000 steel wool.

Etch Marks – Caused by acids; contact a professional for refinishing.

Scratches or Nicks – Minor ones can be buffed with 0000 steel wool; deeper ones require professional repair.