

Natural stone countertops require cleaning with specialized pH neutral cleaners designed specifically for stone surfaces. These concentrated cleaners preserve existing sealers and protective coatings while effectively maintaining your stone's beauty.

****Important:**** Never use acidic cleaners or bleach on natural stone. Even mild solutions like vinegar and water will etch and permanently damage many stone varieties.

****For routine cleaning:****

1. Apply a solution of pH neutral cleaner and water (mixed according to manufacturer instructions) using a sponge or spray bottle
2. Allow the solution to dwell for the recommended time to ensure proper penetration
3. Gently agitate with a soft sponge or soft-bristle brush
4. Remove the cleaning solution with a clean, damp sponge
5. Buff the surface dry with a soft cloth

Some textured stone surfaces may require specialized cleaning methods beyond these general guidelines.

DEEP CLEANING

When your stone surfaces require more intensive cleaning, use a professional-grade heavy-duty stone cleaner and degreaser to effectively remove accumulated dirt, grease, grime, and waxes without damaging the stone.

****For deep cleaning:****

1. Apply the solution according to manufacturer instructions
2. Allow it to dwell for the specified time
3. Gently agitate with a soft sponge or brush
4. Remove the solution with a clean sponge
5. Rinse thoroughly with clean water
6. Dry the surface completely with a soft cloth

Replace your cleaning solution every 100 square feet to prevent reintroducing contaminants. Always minimize the time liquids remain on any natural stone surface and dry thoroughly after cleaning.

STAIN REMOVAL

Stone-specific poultice products can effectively remove stains and grout haze. These fine, non-acidic, absorptive clay powders draw out stains from both polished and unpolished natural stone surfaces.

The effectiveness of a poultice depends on:

- The type of stain
- How long the stain has been present
- The porosity of your stone

Select the appropriate poultice based on the nature of the stain. Deep or long-standing stains may require professional treatment. Always clean spills immediately, especially on light-colored marble and limestone, which are particularly susceptible to staining.

****Caution:**** Poultice treatments may temporarily dull polished stone surfaces. If this occurs, use a quality stone polish to restore the natural shine.

RESTORATION

If your natural stone has become damaged or shows significant wear, we recommend consulting a professional stone restoration specialist.

ACID SENSITIVITY

Proper stone selection is crucial for environments where acid exposure is likely. Calcium carbonate and calcite-based stones (primarily marble and limestone) are especially reactive to even mild

acids like lemon juice, vinegar, and tomatoes.

Acid exposure causes etching—a permanent alteration of the stone surface that cannot be removed without professional refinishing. On polished surfaces, acid etching typically appears as a dull spot within the surrounding glossy area.

TRANSLUCENCE

Some white or very light-colored marbles and onyxes possess a crystalline structure that naturally transmits light. This translucence varies depending on the stone's thickness and finish. Rather than being considered a defect, this natural property creates an aesthetically intriguing, decorative attribute that enhances the stone's unique character.