

## GRANITE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

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The granite you have purchased is a very versatile material that has a luxurious look and feel as well as durability. Granite does require some care and maintenance to maintain the luxurious look it has now. Normal good housekeeping practices should be applied, such as immediately removing spills of any type and discretionary use of coasters and placemats.

### Sealing

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Your granite countertops with a sealer prior to installation. However, it is recommended that the countertops be resealed every six months to one year, depending on how heavily the countertops are used. Resealing is an easy task that you, as the homeowner can perform. Sealers can be purchased at most home centers. We recommend a water-based sealant. It is a good idea to test any new sealer on a small, inconspicuous area of the countertop before sealing the entire surface.



### Cleaning

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Frequently cleaning the granite with lukewarm water is generally all that is required to maintain the appearance. Wipe the countertops with soft, clean cloths and dry thoroughly. Acidic or abrasive cleaners should never be used on granite. Specialty stone cleaners are available at most home centers if needed or desired.

### Stain Removal

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Stains are a result of exterior products introduced into the stone; typically they are organic in nature, usually oil- or rust-related. Surface stains can generally be removed by cleaning the granite with a stone cleaning product. By identifying the type of stain, you can more readily remove it. Look for color, shape, and the environmental factors that may have caused the stain.

#### Common types of stains:

- Oil-Based (grease, tar, cooking oil, cosmetics, and milk): An oil-based stain will darken the granite.
- Organic (coffee, tea, tobacco, fruit, food, leaves, bark, and bird droppings): Likely to cause a pinkish-brown stain.
- Metal (iron, rust, copper, and bronze): Iron or rust stains are orange to brown in color and follow the shape of the staining object such as bolts, nails, screws, cans, flower pots, etc.
- Biological (mold, mildew, algae, and fungus): These stains appear to be a topical growth rather than a deep stain.
- Ink (pen, magic marker, and ink): Obvious in appearance.

#### Tough stains may require poultice:

1. Prepare the poultice – white paper towels soaked in the appropriate cleaner and drained with no liquid dripping.
2. Wet the stained area down with distilled water.
3. Apply the poultice to the stained area, making sure the poultice extends beyond the area of the stain by at least one inch.
4. Cover the poultice with plastic and tape the edges to seal it.
5. Allow the poultice to dry thoroughly, approximately 24 to 48 hours. The drying process will pull the stain out of the granite and into the poultice.
6. Remove the poultice from the stain. Rinse the area with distilled water and buff dry with a soft cloth.
7. Repeat as necessary if the stain is not fully removed. It could take as many as five applications for difficult stains. Keep in mind some stains may be impossible to completely remove.

