



## NATURAL STONE COUNTERTOP CARE RECOMMENDATIONS

### Know Your Stone

Natural stone can be classified into two general categories according to its composition: siliceous stone or calcareous stone. Knowing the difference is critical when selecting cleaning products.

*Siliceous stone* is composed mainly of silica or quartz-like particles. It tends to be very durable and relatively easy to clean with mild acidic cleaning solutions. Types of siliceous stone include: granite, slate, sandstone, quartzite, brownstone, and bluestone.

*Calcareous stone* is composed mainly of calcium carbonate. It is sensitive to acidic cleaning products and frequently requires different cleaning procedures than siliceous stone. Types of calcareous stone include: marble, travertine, limestone, and onyx. What may work on siliceous stone may not be suitable on calcareous surfaces.

General guidelines for both siliceous and calcareous stones: Use coasters under all glasses, particularly those containing alcohol or citrus juices. Do not place hot items right off a stove or out of an oven directly on the stone surface. Use trivets or mats under hot dishes and placemats under china, ceramics, silver, or other objects that can scratch the surface. For calcareous stones, many common foods and drinks contain acids that will etch or dull the stone surface.

*There are several finishes (for example: polished, honed and leathered) available for natural stone. The type of finish will not impact the type of cleaning product used.*

### Cleaning Do's & Don'ts

When determining your care and cleaning procedures of your natural stone, there are recommended do's and don'ts that should always be followed:

**Do** dust countertop surfaces frequently.

**Do** clean surfaces with mild detergent or stone soap.

**Do** thoroughly rinse the surface with clean, clear water after washing and dry with a soft cloth.

**Do** daily cleanings accompanied by periodic deep cleanings.

**Do** blot up spills immediately or as soon as noticed.

**Do** protect countertop surfaces with coasters, trivets, or placemats.

**Don't** use vinegar, lemon juice, or other cleaners containing acids on natural stone surfaces, especially marble, limestone, travertine, or onyx surfaces.

**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 cleansers or soft cleansers.

**Don't** use scouring powders or creams.



**Don't** mix bleach and ammonia; this combination creates a toxic and lethal gas.

**Don't** ever mix chemicals together unless directions specifically instruct you to do so.

## Daily Cleaning Procedures & Recommendations

### *Countertop Surfaces:*

Clean stone surfaces with a few drops of neutral cleaner or a mild liquid dishwashing detergent and warm water. Use a clean soft cloth for best results. Similar to any item cleaned in your home, too much cleaner or soap may leave a film and cause streaks. Do not use products that contain lemon, vinegar, or other acids on marble or limestone. Rinse the surface thoroughly after washing with the soap solution and dry with a soft cloth. Do not use scouring powders or creams; these products contain abrasives that may scratch the surface.

## General Guidelines for Stain Removal

1. Remove any loose debris.
2. Blot spills; wiping the area will spread the spill.
3. Flush the area with plain water and mild soap and rinse several times.
4. Dry the area thoroughly with a soft cloth.
5. Repeat as necessary.
6. If the stain persists or for problems that appear too difficult to treat, contact your natural stone professional.

## Bacteria

Bacteria requires several things in order to thrive and grow: oxygen, water, sunlight, nutrients, and a substrate to form on. The minerals in granite are toxic to bacteria. As a result, there is no habitable environment for the bacteria to live and grow on a granite surface.

*\*These recommendations for stone care and maintenance are based on those from The Marble Institute of America.*

## Sealing

Your countertop has been sealed with a Dry-Treat world leading permanent impregnating sealer, for premium stain protection, which comes with a 15 year performance warranty. With correct care, your countertops will look beautiful for many, many years!

### *Spills Should Be Wiped Up As Soon As Possible*

Impregnating sealers work by repelling liquids rather than blocking the pores of the natural stone. The reason is so that air can still move through the pores allowing the material to 'breathe' naturally. It is the best technology available to protect against staining while preserving the look and natural integrity of your surface.

Because the pores of your natural stone countertop remain open, the surface is not immune from staining, but the sealer will give you plenty of time to clean up liquids before they absorb into the pores and stain. Using coasters for drinks is also recommended.

### *Additional Sealer Information*

- Impregnating sealers will not prevent surface etching. It is important to find out if your countertop is made from marble, limestone, onyx, travertine, or other acid sensitive materials. If so, it is important to wipe up spills from acidic substances (including citrus juice, vinegar, cola and wine) immediately, before acid etching occurs.



- Impregnating sealers repel water and oil, but do not repel solvent based liquids, e.g. solvent based inks.
- Do not leave wet trays, cutting boards, bowls, vases, and similar things on your surface. For example, the water underneath a wet plastic tray will evaporate very slowly, and if left for days or weeks might stain the surface.

*\*Refer to your Dry-Treat Warranty Certificate for full details of the performance warranty, terms and conditions.*

### **Additional Cleaners**

#### *For Deep Cleaning, We Recommend That You Use Rejuvenata Spray For Countertops*

Hanafinn Rejuvenata spray for countertops is a pH neutral cleaner specially designed for natural stone countertops. Rejuvenata is food safe, provides a mild, natural citrus scent, and contains a tiny amount of invisible sealer to increase protection. For regular daily cleaning, warm water and a small amount of dishwashing detergent can be used and then the surface rinsed and dried.

#### *For More Stubborn Grime, 'Spring' Cleaning, Or Stain Removal, Use Hanafinn Oxy-Klenza or Rejuvenata™ Active*

Oxy-Klenza is a safe, powerful, oxygen based, odorless, environmentally responsible alkaline cleaner. Rejuvenata Active is a natural active enzyme cleaner that cleans general grime and stains caused by oil, mold, food and beverages. **Acidic cleaners should never be used.**

*\*The above mentioned cleaners are available through your natural stone professional.*

*Thank you for your business and the opportunity to be of service.*

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