

# Natural Stone Care & Maintenance

GRANITE, QUARTZITE, MARBLE, TRAVERTINE, SOAPSTONE, ONYX

Information below is specific to **Natural Stone**. For General Care and Maintenance, see our [Care and Maintenance](#) page.

## DOs and DON'Ts of Natural Stone



### Heat Resistance

One of clear advantages of natural stone is its resistance to heat. You can take a hot frying pan off the stove or a baking sheet straight out of the oven and place it directly on the stone. No need for trivets or heat pads. The heat your appliances generate will NOT harm natural stone.

### Always Use A Soft Cloth Or Sponge

Make sure the cloth you use is always clean. You can also use paper towels.



### Don't Cut on Your Countertop!

It will dull your knives

### Don't Step on Your Countertop!

Your stone could crack or a seam could break. This will lead to expensive repairs, not covered by a warranty.

### Don't Use Degreasers, Bleach or Acidic Chemicals

Harsh products that could damage your granite's shiny surface. These cleaners have abrasives that can dull and scratch surfaces.

With all these tips and tricks, you will be able to enjoy your granite countertops for many years to come.

## Sealing a Stone

**Note:** *Your countertop was sealed before installation.*

Natural stone is porous and it requires periodic sealing. Stones that are unsealed are unprotected and therefore can harbour bacteria. The sealant fills in tiny cracks that can become repositories for moisture and dirt. Once properly sealed, the stone will be more resistant against everyday dirt and spills.

### When to seal your countertop?

As the saying goes, no two pieces of natural stone are the same, therefore depending on the mineral contents of the stone, sealing may be needed annually or it may not be necessary for seven years or more. Some stones like Quartzite may require more frequent sealing. An easy way to tell if you need to seal is to perform a monthly test.

Perform a simple test to see if your stone requires sealing. After regular cleaning, pour multiple quarter-sized drops of water on several areas of your countertop. If after 20 minutes, the water is still beading off, there is no need to seal your countertop. If the stone is "thirsty" and absorbs the water, it means that it will absorb other liquids as well, which means it is ready to be sealed. The spot(s) of water that have been absorbed will temporarily darken the stone surface.

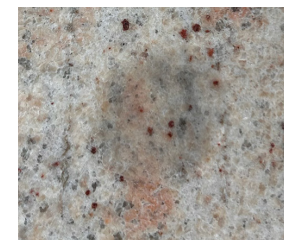
### What type of sealer to buy and where?

You can find the natural stone sealer at any hardware store. Follow the instructions on the product on how to apply it.

For additional Care and Maintenance information, see our [Cornerstone Blog](#).



SEALED



UNSEALED

**DO NOT OVERSEAL YOUR COUNTERTOP**  
Some people feel that sealing the stone brings up the shine, which is a false assumption. Oversealing the stone will create a surface film only professionals like ourselves will be able to remove.