



## Maintenance of Natural Stone

Natural stone tops are surprisingly resilient to stains and scratches. However, as a preventative measure, any spills on stone surfaces should be wiped up immediately. Do not let liquid reside on the surface overnight. Natural stone is most prone to staining by oil and acid, so be sure to blot these spills up as soon as they happen. Follow up by cleaning the stone with a mild non-abrasive soap and water.

In bathrooms specifically, natural stone tends to attract soap scum, just like man-made tile. Rinse the vanity top with clean, hot water frequently.

Although your stone was sealed at the factory, this is not a guarantee that the top will be impermeable to stains. We recommend that you apply another coat of quality sealant to the stone top before use. We suggest using a penetrating sealer for bath areas, as a food-safe sealer is typically not necessary. Finally, while the use of sealers is a powerful preventative measure reapplication is necessary over time. How often is determined by the quality of sealer used and the frequency of use.

If stains and scratches DO occur, there are many things you can do as a consumer to remove them. Remove oil based stains with acetone (dark stone), mineral spirits, or clear ammonia. Organic stains like coffee, tea, or juice can be removed with hydrogen peroxide (light stone to be safe), mixed with a few drops of clear ammonia. Be warned, continuous use of ammonia can dull granite over time.

Water spots or rings are the most common problem with bath vanities and are caused by minerals left behind when water evaporates. These can be removed by buffing the spots gently with 00 gauge steel wool. Likewise, small nicks and scratches can often be removed utilizing the same method. Larger scratches, chips, and resilient stains may require professional help. Please contact your local stonemason for details.

Remember the following list of DO's and DON'Ts:

- DO use preventative cleaning measures to keep your stone pristine.
- DO use sealers, applied according to the product specific directions.
- DO blot spills quickly, wash with mild soap and warm water.
- DON'T use harsh bathroom cleaners or grout cleaners on any natural stone
- DON'T worry if you get a significant stain or scratch – virtually anything can be fixed with professional help.