



Care and Maintenance of Granite, Marble and Quartz

Granite

- Clean up any spills promptly with warm water and a gentle cleaner to avoid them soaking into the granite and etching or staining it. For stubborn stains and residues, use a plastic object to scrape off the material and clean with a pH neutral cleaner, then polish with a soft cloth.
- Do not use bleach, abrasive cleaners and sponges, or aggressive alkaline detergents.
- Always use pan stands for hot pots and pans.
- Sealing granite with a good quality product will help protect it from staining. We stock Lithofin cleaners and sealers and recommend them as a safe and effective way of caring for it. Talk to our staff for more information.



Marble

ACID ETCHING

Marble is a relatively soft stone and is more easily damaged than other natural stones, especially by exposure to acid which manifests itself as a loss of shine or reflectivity in minor cases, and roughness or cratering in more severe cases.

- Avoid contact with acidic substances such as orange juice, wine, vinegar etc. and cosmetic products such as citrus based shampoo, soap etc.
- When a spill has occurred, immediately remove the substance by wiping inwards so as not to spread it and cause further damage.
- Do not use abrasive or aggressive cleaning substances in particular limescale remover.

WATER-BASED STAINS

Coloured water such as tea, soft drinks and in fact just plain water depending on the area, can stain a marble top if it comes into prolonged contact with unsealed marble. Watermarks are particularly difficult to deal with. These are areas where a wet object such as a cup was placed on the surface and left there until the fluid had fully penetrated the surface. They manifest themselves as either leaching or staining depending on the chemical composition of the fluid.

- Ensure that marble is regularly sealed with Lithofin Stain-Stop. Please note that watermarks can still occur on sealed marble as the hydrostatic pressure of the liquid under the object will still force the water into the stone, although it will take longer and be less marked than on unsealed marble.
- Always use coasters for bottles, cups and glasses
- Do not leave wet objects on marble surfaces

OTHER TYPES OF NATURAL STONE

For limestone and other types of natural stone please follow the instructions for marble and granite. Please contact us for more detailed information.

Quartz

More information can be found on manufacturers websites.

- Use soap and water or a mild detergent. For stubborn stains and stuck-on materials you can use a non-abrasive soft soap along with a non-scratch scrub pad or plastic putty knife. Afterwards rinse with clean water to remove the residue.
- Nail varnish or chewing gum can be removed with denatured alcohol, rinsing thoroughly afterwards.
- Never place hot pans directly onto the surface.
- Avoid the use of strong chemicals and solvents or highly abrasive cleaning agents such as oven/grill cleaners and dishwasher polishing agents that have high alkaline/pH levels (pH levels higher than 11). Products containing oils or powders may leave a residue and should be rinsed off thoroughly. Never clean your worktop with products that contain trichloroethane or methylene chloride, such as paint removers or strippers. Should your surface accidentally be exposed to any of these damaging products, rinse immediately with warm water to neutralize the effect.

Look after your stone and it will last many lifetimes, if not forever. We're always here if you require some advice, so call or email anytime.

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