



## **NATURAL STONE CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

Natural Stone is an extremely durable material. When properly cared for, it will remain highly polished, unmarked and as beautiful as the day it was installed. We recommend the following methods of caring for your new natural stone countertop:

### **Routine Care**

Stone should be cleaned with water and a non-abrasive, mild, PH-neutral soap such as dish soap (like Dawn, Ivory, etc.) or a cleanser specially formulated for stone (these can be found at home improvement stores). Apply with a soft cloth and warm water. 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, travertine or limestone. Rinse the surface thoroughly after washing with the soap solution and dry with a soft cloth. Change the rinse water frequently. Do not use scouring powders or creams; these products contain abrasives that may scratch the surface of softer stones like marbles. A polishing paste is an optional material used to restore the shine to the stone surface. This paste and other special granite and marble cleansers are available at all home improvement centers.

### **Sealing**

Granite & Marble Designs seals all stones with an impregnator before installation of the granite. This sealant penetrates the material and creates a barrier against most of the tiny openings present in the stone. The sealant will not change the color of polished stones. We recommend that most stones be resealed every year.

### **Staining**

While granite is highly resistant to staining, substances, such as oil, grease, and any acidic or pigmented material can stain some granites and many marbles and travertines if not removed immediately. Using paper towels, or other disposable cloths, instead of a sponge or rag during regular cleansing will help reduce the spread of remnant oil, acid or bacteria. If a spill occurs, blot the spill with a paper towel immediately. Don't wipe the area, it will spread the spill. Flush the area with plain water and mild soap and rinse several times. Dry the area thoroughly with a soft cloth. Repeat as necessary. Please visit the Marble Institute of America's website for the best stain removal information, as the type of stain and color of stone will determine the best method of removal: [www.marbleinstitute.com/consumerresources/stains.cfm](http://www.marbleinstitute.com/consumerresources/stains.cfm)

### **Substances to Avoid**

While some substances may stain stone if left on the surface for a period of time (such as cooking grease, lemon juice, or wine), there are some materials that are more dangerous to your countertops and should be completely avoided. Avoid use of these chemicals: paint removers, hydrochloric acid, ammonia, and degreasers. The use of these products will cause the polish to fade or etch. Certain construction adhesives (plumber's putty, painter's putty, etc.) will permanently stain your natural stone.