

Caraco

Marble and Granite

Some tips on how to keep your granite looking just as beautiful as when it was first installed

Natural granite and Engineered stone are robust materials well suited to kitchen worktops and when treated with care will should last a lifetime. Once you know what to use, you just have to follow some basic guidelines to keep your natural stone in great condition long term. This guide will give you some simple do's and don'ts when it comes to routine maintenance of your stone.

Your granite has been treated with a permanent antistain compound. It won't protect your tops completely, but it will buy you some time if you've left a substance on your surface that wasn't wiped up right away. Substances known to cause problems are mainly anything acidic so wipe up promptly spills of fruit juice, tomato juice and wine. Bleach is not recommended

Routine Preventive Measures

Do – use coasters underneath drinking glasses – especially those containing alcohol or citric juices – in order to avoid etching. Do – use place mats under objects that could scratch the surface, such as pans etc. **Don't – place any hot items directly on the stone surface.** Be sure to use trivets or mats under hot dishes.

Treating Spills

Do – wipe up any spills as quickly and efficiently as possible. **Don't – rub the spill; only blot it. Don't – use cleaning products on or near natural stone unless the label specifies that it is safe for natural stone. This includes using things such as glass cleaners to clean mirrors over a marble vanity top for example, or liquid toilet bowl cleaner where the toilet is on a marble floor.**

Kitchen Counter Tops

Do – clean your kitchen counter top regularly and thoroughly with an appropriate stone safe cleaner ([we recommend K-30](#)). If you are using other cleaners be sure that the ingredients are classified as "Suitable for natural stone" and "food-grade," and follow the label instructions. **Don't – let any spills sit too long on the stone surface. It is safe to use the sponges lined with a silvery net, or other plastic scouring pads. Note: spray the cleaner and let it sit for a while before scrubbing it! Granite is brittle so take care not to drop or bang pans on to the surface or edge of the sink cut out.**

Marble Vanity Tops

Do – clean your vanity tops regularly with a soap-free neutral cleaner appropriate and safe for your natural stone type ([K-30](#)). Do – use a stone polish if you wish to add extra shine to your polished stone counter top surface and help prevent soiling. Do – make sure any hand soaps being used around stone vanity tops is neutral and doesn't contain any acidic or harmful chemicals: (Most do!) **Don't – take chances with cleaning mirrors that are over your marble vanity tops with a regular glass cleaner. The over-spray could easily spill onto the surface and damage the stone.** Clean mirrors with a neutral cleaner instead. K-30 works very well. **Don't – use any powder or cream cleansers Don't – use things such as nail polish or hair colour anywhere near your vanity tops. Don't – place wet bottles on the stone (perfume, after-shave, etc.).** Protect your vanity tops by keeping cosmetics and fragrances in an appropriate container or cupboards.

Showers

Do – monitor your grout and caulk lines occasionally and take care of any problems as soon as they are noticed. Do – clean shower cubicles daily. The easiest and most effective way is to spray the floor and walls of the stall with an appropriate cleaner, and then squeegee after the shower stall is done being used for the day. Do – use a soap film remover made to clean soap scum and hard mineral deposits, whilst not negatively affecting the stone. Do – clean any mildew stains on the grout of your shower with a mildew stain remover that is safe on natural stone. **Don't – use any powder or cream cleanser. Don't – use any generic soap film remover or mildew stain remover on your polished stone in your shower. Don't – use any self-cleaners or any harsh disinfectants, such as Lysol®**

Toilets

Don't – use any regular toilet bowl cleaners if your toilet bowl is placed on a marble or other natural stone floor. They are highly acidic. Possible spills will dig holes in your marble. Be sure to clean your bowl with a non-acid toilet bowl cleaner.

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