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To insure that your stone counter tops will provide you with a lifetime of aesthetics and utility, proper maintenance is crucial. Stone is porous by nature and requires regular routine care to ensure lasting beauty and luster.

RECOMMENDED ROUTINE CARE

IMPORTANT: NEVER USE ABRASIVE, DRY OR SOFT CLEANSERS OR SCOURING PADS TO CLEAN YOUR STONE COUNTER TOP. ABRASIVE PRODUCTS CAN DAMAGE THE SURFACE.

IMPORTANT: CERTAIN STONES CAN STAIN IF SPILLS ARE NOT CLEANED IMMEDIATELY.

DAYLY MAINTENANCE

Clean the counter top with warm water and a few drops of dishwashing detergent or antibacterial detergent using a soft cloth. Rinse the surface thoroughly with clean water and dry with a soft cloth.

If you spill something on your counter top, blot with a paper towel or soft cloth immediately. So not wipe the area as this can spread the spill. flush the spill with warm water and detergent and rinse thoroughly. Dry the area with a soft cloth. Properly sealed stone will repel most stains if the spills are cleaned promptly.

HEAVY-DUTY CLEANING

When granite has been neglected, you will need to use a heavy-duty stone and degreaser to effectively remove dirt, grease, and grime. These products are concentrated and designed to deep clean without damaging the stone. It's important to follow manufactures instructions carefully.

STAINS

If you find you have a stain that is not easily removed by following the above directions for spills, a "poultice" can be used to pull the stain from the stone. Stone poultice is a fine, non-acid, absorptive clay cleaning powder that removes deep-set oil stains, grease and light cement grout haze from polished and unpolished natural stone. Poultice may dull the shine of the polished stone. If this occurs you will need to use a marble polish to restore the natural shine.

SEALERS

Granite works places a sealer on all counter tops prior to installation. You can re-seal the counter top as often as every six months up to once every two years depending on how often you use the counter top. Granite works recommends sealing the counter top once a year.

Applying granite sealers: Please refer to specific manufacturers instructions. Clean the surface thoroughly- removes any stains-allow the stone to dry for several hours- pour the sealer on the surface. Spread the sealer over the counter top with a paper towel, foam brush or rag- allow the sealer to penetrate 5-10 minutes- (if the sealer is completely absorbed in 5 minutes add more) –after 5-10 minutes blot any remaining sealer- buff the stone dry with a clean terry cloth and let dry for 12 hours before use- make sure your work area is well ventilated.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Keep your stone surface clean.
- Hot cooking pots will not damage the surface, however extreme or constant temperature changes may harm your stone. Avoid leaving hot pans sitting on the counter for long periods of time, especially during the winter.
- Do not stand on your counter tops.
- Use trivets or mats under ceramic objects that can scratch the surface.
- While granite is highly scratch-resistant, we recommend you do not cut on it directly. Use a cutting board.
- Granite works offers services to clean remove stains and seal countertops. Consult if you have a particular need.

The marble institute of America offers a brochure that includes information on treating spills and stains of natural stone surfaces. One free copy is available by sending a self- addressed, stamped business size envelop to:

Marble Institute of America
30 Eden Alley, suite 201, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Or visit their website @www.marble-institute.com

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