



# Premier

## Granite & Stone

### How to care for your NATURAL STONE Countertops

[www.premiergranitetops.com](http://www.premiergranitetops.com)

#### **Routine Care and Maintenance:**

Simply clean with **warm water, a damp cloth**, and a small amount of **soap or non-abrasive cleaner** without bleach on a regular basis. Dry with a soft cloth to remove water spots. Zero Ultimate Surface Cleaner is PGS-endorsed product.

**Avoid** straight vinegar, lemon juice, or other cleaners (including ammonia and tub and tile cleaners) that contain high levels of acid. This can etch softer stones, especially marbles. \*PLEASE NOTE: Fantasy Brown is among the many stones that can be easily etched when exposed to highly acidic chemicals.

#### **Sealing:**

Premier seals your granite, quartzite and marble countertops prior to and at the time of installation using a 15-year sealer - [www.drytreat.com](http://www.drytreat.com). However, if your countertop should need resealing, please contact us or purchase a granite sealer at your local hardware store.

If you begin to notice water spots darkening your granite, this is an indication that it needs to be resealed. Test your granite by leaving an ounce of water on your countertop for an hour.

#### **Recommended Cleaner:**

- **ZERO Ultimate Surface Cleaner**  
*PGS-endorsed*

#### **Homemade Granite Cleaner**

- ¼ teaspoon of liquid dish soap
- ¼ cup of rubbing alcohol
- 2 ½ cups of water

This can be kept in a spray bottle for a quick and easy-to-use cleaner.

#### **Stubborn Spots/Deep Cleaning:**

- Denatured Alcohol  
*(PGS recommended favorite)*
- Lacquer Thinner
- Acetone (Nail Polish Remover)
- Razor blade to scrape off residue/sticky spots

#### **Granite**

Granite is a mined stone comprised of different minerals such as quartz, feldspar, and mica. Due to the natural combination of these minerals, granite is known to have pores, pits, fissures, and veins which are all part of the unique texture and beauty of the stone. Although it is porous, granite can be sealed to make it antibacterial and stain resistant. Granite is highly durable, however, it is not stain, scratch, or heat proof.

#### **Marble**

Marble is primarily composed of calcium carbonate, which is derived from the recrystallization of limestone or dolomite rock. It is a highly porous and softer natural stone. Marble, even when properly cared for, will show use and be more prone to scratching/etching and requires frequent resealing over its lifetime. Marble is susceptible to damage from acidic substances, including citrus fruits and common household cleaners.

#### **Soapstone**

Soapstone is a non porous natural stone known for its heat & stain resistance. It does not require sealing but you can apply a mineral oil as an extra protective layer. The stone will darken with time and the mineral oil will help with the aging process and patina. Initially after install, you may apply the mineral oil more often but over time you may lessen application as the stone will start to absorb and hold on to more of the mineral oil. Another characteristic of Soapstone is that it is composed of softer minerals so it is more prone to scratching. You can remove fine scratches with fine grit sandpaper and then apply mineral oil. Deep scratches may need the help of a local professional to remove.

### **Preventing Damage**

#### **Heat**

While most natural stone is impervious to heat, it is always recommended to use hot pads or trivets before placing pots and pans taken from your oven or stove top onto your countertop. It is important to note that hot skillet, pans, crockpots, or other heat-generating kitchenware should never be placed directly over or near a seam as this can "pop" your seam apart.

#### **Scratches**

It is safe to occasionally cut and slice on your countertops, however we recommend using a cutting board to keep from dulling your cutlery. Dragging heavy objects, such as a tool box with dirt, grit, or sand on its bottom, may cause scratches. We also recommend using trivets or mats under hot dishes and placemats under china, ceramics, silver, and other objects that may scratch the surface. If chipping occurs, it is normally on a straight polished edge or at your undermount sink edge. Most chips can be repaired.

#### **Staining**

Although properly sealed natural stone is resistant to stains, spills should be cleaned as soon as possible. Oils, grease, acidic juices/wines, and other similar products have the potential to darken or stain stone. Though staining is unlikely, there are options available to remove stains should they occur. See the sidebar for information on sealing.