

## Caring and Cleaning Countertops

### Granite

Generally, you can clean your granite countertop with a mild soap and water. Avoid using acidic products and harsh chemicals on your countertop as they will strip the seal and leave the porous surface of the granite exposed. If anything is to spill on the material that could potentially stain it, be sure to wipe up as quickly as possible. Honed granite is susceptible to oil stains. Polished granite, spilled will 'bead' up on the surface. Always call a cleaning specialist for stains that have set for a long time or you are having trouble cleaning yourself.

### Marble

Don't use anything with acid or lemon juice. Mix a mild soap with water and spray the counter with the dish soap solution and wipe with a damp dish cloth. Be careful of staining white marbles with items such as red wine or tomato sauce. If anything is to spill on the material, be sure to wipe up as quickly as possible. Always call a cleaning specialist for stains that have set for a long time or you are having trouble cleaning yourself.

- **Oil-based stains (grease, cooking oil, cosmetics):** Clean gently with a soft liquid cleanser, household detergent, ammonia or mineral spirits.
- **Organic stains (coffee, tea, fruit, food):** Clean with a mixture of 12 percent hydrogen peroxide and a few drops of ammonia.
- **Rust stains (from metals):** These stains must be removed with a poultice (see below) and are very difficult to remove. In fact, they may be permanent.
- **Paint stains:** Small amounts can be removed with lacquer thinner or scraped off carefully with a razor blade.
- **Smoke stains:** Commercial smoke removal products are available, best to contact a cleaning specialist.
- **Water spots and rings:** Buff with dry #0000 steel wool.

### Quartz

You can easily clean it with a mild soap and water mixture. If anything is to spill on the material that could potentially stain it, be sure to wipe up as quickly as possible. Always call a cleaning specialist for stains that have set for a long time or you are having trouble cleaning yourself.

### Quartzite

Natural quartzite's hardness protects it from scratching and etching, but as a natural stone, it does need sealing to help it resist stains. Other than that, natural quartzite care is simple. Wipe frequently with a damp cloth and use mild soaps or stone cleaners. It is difficult to scratch natural

quartzite, but avoid abrasives and do not cut direct on stone anyway to maintain the like-new appearance of your countertop. Always call a cleaning specialist for stains that have set for a long time or you are having trouble cleaning yourself.

### **Laminate**

Easily clean using a soft cloth with water and a mild soap or detergent solution. Be sure to completely rinse off any soap residue that may be on the surface. Failure to rinse after cleaning can cause damage; even if a small amount of cleaning solution remains on the surface. Always call a cleaning specialist for stains that have set for a long time or you are having trouble cleaning yourself.