

## **CLEANING**

There are many products on the market developed specifically for cleaning countertops. Check with your fabricator to find out what sealer has been applied during fabrication and what is recommended for cleaning maintenance.

All spills should be wiped up immediately, blotting the spill with a clean paper towel. Avoid using abrasive cleaning pads to avoid scratching the surface.

### **GRANITE & QUARTZITE**

Clean countertops with a soft cloth using a mild cleaning product. Some household cleaning products may leave a film. A 1:10 solution of vinegar and water works great to remove streaking and smudges.

To remove tape residue, dried paint, glue, dried food, etc, use the flat side of a razor blade.

A pencil eraser may be used to remove aluminum trails.

### **MARBLE, LIMESTONE, SOAPSTONE & ONYX**

As some cleaners and chemicals may etch or change the surface or color, always test cleaning products in a low-profile area. Use a mild PH balanced soap and water with a microfiber cloth to clean. Do not use cleaners containing vinegar or acid-based ingredients. Avoid scrubbing pads as they often contain abrasives.

A poultice paste made of baking soda and water may be applied to remove tough stains.

### **ENGINEERED STONE & PORCELAIN**

Clean countertops with a soft cloth using a mild cleaning product. Some household cleaning products may leave a film. A 1:10 solution of vinegar and water works great to remove streaking and smudges.

For tougher stains use a 50:50 combination of rubbing alcohol and water. Greasy stains may be removed using a 1:30 Simple Green® and water combination. Goof Off® Spray removes sticky adhesives.

Do not use abrasive cleaners and cleaning pads as they may dull the surface.

**For more information visit [www.naturalstoneinstitute.org/consumers/care/](http://www.naturalstoneinstitute.org/consumers/care/)**

## **SEALING**

Natural stone such as granite, quartzite, marble, limestone or onyx is typically sealed during the fabrication process. Confirm this application and the product used with your fabricator.

Resealing is up to the individual. The lifespan of sealers varies depending on the type of stone, sealer and cleaners routinely used.

One option to determine if your countertop needs to be resealed is a simple water test. Pour a small amount of hot water in various spots, letting it sit for 30 minutes and then wiping it up. If the stone darkens, the countertop should be resealed.

Marble, limestone, travertine and onyx may need to be sealed more often due to the stone's porosity. Contact your fabricator for more detailed information relating to your specific stone.

Soapstone does not require sealing. Application of mineral oil or soapstone wax is common. Without these products, soapstone will naturally patina over time with heavily used areas becoming darker in color.

Engineered Quartz and Porcelain does not require sealing.