How to Care for Your Natural Stone Countertops

You invested a lot of money in your countertops. Now let us help you take care of them! There are just a few dos and don'ts. If you follow these directions, we promise your countertops will maintain their pristine condition for a lifetime.

DO:

- Use cutting boards to prevent scratches.
- Use trivets and potholders to avoid heat damage.
- Immediately clean spills.
- Wipe daily with a damp cloth. If you need to apply a cleaner for stubborn residue, use one that does not have an acidic base.
- Twice a year, reapply a sealant. This keeps your countertops nonporous and prevents bacteria buildup.
- Polish once a week. This will keep your countertops shiny!

DON'T:

- Use bleach or abrasive cleaners. This will impact your sealant.
- Leave spills to dry on their own. Clean them all, even if it's just water. If the sealant has weakened, even water can leave a stain.
- Expose your natural stone to excessive heat. This can impact the sealant and cause discoloration in some cases.
- Use metal scrapers or SOS pads. This can damage the sealant and scratch the surface. If you have stubborn residue, we recommend using a plastic scraper.

Maintenance

Life happens. We get that your countertops could sustain damage during daily usage. Here are some solutions to the problems you might have.

Stains:

If the sealant has weakened, oils and liquids can cause stains. To fix these, we recommend mixing a baking soda paste: 2 parts baking soda to 1 part water. Apply to the stain. Tape plastic wrap over the paste and leave it to dry overnight. As baking soda dries, it pulls out the stain, but sometimes it takes several applications. Don't be discouraged if it doesn't work the first time.

Once the paste has dried, and the stain has come out, use a damp cloth to clean away the residue. Dry thoroughly and reapply a sealant, following the instructions on your product.

Scratches:

Sometimes the surface of your countertop will get a mild scratch. Note that we don't recommend you tackle deep scratches. For those, please seek professional help. But you can buff out mild scratches with fine-grit sandpaper. Wipe away the dust and reapply the sealant to blend it.

Discoloration:

Some natural stones, like Soapstone, tend to show discoloration over time. The surfaces oxidize and darken. When you notice this happening, apply a thin layer of mineral oil and let it absorb. You can schedule these applications every couple of months or when you observe discoloration.