

Natural Stone Panels Cleaning and Maintenance

Care and Precautions

To successfully maintain Natural Stone panels some critical steps should be followed:

- Use coasters under all glasses, particularly those containing alcohol or citrus juices. Many common foods and drinks contain acids that will etch or dull the surface of many stones.
- Do not place hot items directly on the stone surface.
- Use trivets or mats under hot dishes and place mats under china, ceramics, silver or other objects that can scratch the surface.

Occasional Care

Periodic wiping with clean water, methylated spirits or appropriate cleaning products is generally sufficient to keep your Natural Stone installation looking like new. Do not use detergents, acids or caustic cleaners. Cleaning agents vary depending on the stone type and application.

Sealants

Sealants can be applied periodically depending on the wear and tear of the material and the porosity of the stone, such as marble, granite or limestone. Always remember to follow the instruction on the bottle and apply the sealer with your windows open and/or with sufficient ventilation. Appropriate sealants vary depending on the stone type and application.

Caution

Due to the characteristics of Natural Stone, some care should be taken with some products such as, juices containing acidic products, strong detergents, corrosive liquids or scouring powders which can react on the surface, leaving residues that may dull the polished/honed surface of the Natural Stones.

Floor Surfaces

Dust mop interior floors frequently, using a clean non-treated dry dust mop. Sand, dirt and grit do the most damage to natural stone surfaces due to their abrasiveness. Mats or area rugs inside and outside an entrance will help to minimize the sand, dirt and grit that will scratch the stone floor. Be sure that the underside of the mat or rug is a non-slip surface. Normally, it will take a person about eight steps on a floor surface to remove sand or dirt from the bottom of their shoes. Do not use vacuum cleaners that are worn. The metal or plastic attachments or the wheels may scratch the surface. It is recommended to use a steam mop or neutral cleaning agents for routine cleaning. Always remember to follow the manufactures instructions when using any cleaning products or appliances.

Other Surfaces

Clean stone surfaces with a few drops of neutral cleaner, stone soap and warm water. Use a clean rag mop on floors and a soft cloth for other surfaces for best results. Too much cleaner or soap may leave a film and cause streaks. DO NOT use products that contain lemon, vinegar or other acids on marble or limestone. Rinse the surface thoroughly after washing with the soap solution and dry with a soft cloth. Change the rinse water frequently. Do not use scouring powders or creams; these products contain abrasives that may scratch the surface. Always remember to follow the manufactures instructions when using any cleaning products.

Bath and Other Wet Areas

In the bath or other wet areas, soap scum can be minimized by using a squeegee after each use. To remove soap scum, use a non-acidic soap scum remover or a solution of ammonia and water (about 1/2 cup ammonia to a gallon of water). Frequent or over-use of an ammonia solution may eventually dull the surface of the stone.



Vanity Top Surfaces

Vanity tops may need to have a penetrating sealer applied. Check with your installer for recommendations. A good quality marble wax or non-yellowing automobile paste wax can be applied to minimize water spotting.

Food Preparation Areas

In food preparation areas, the stone may need to have a penetrating sealer applied. Check with your installer for recommendations. If a sealer is applied, be sure that it is non-toxic and safe for use on food preparation surfaces and remember to apply with your windows open and/or with sufficient ventilation. If there are questions, check with the sealer manufacturer.

Outdoor Pool and Patio Areas

In outdoor pool, patio or hot tub areas, flush with clear water and use a mild bleach solution to remove algae or moss.

Spills and Stains

Blot the spill with a paper towel immediately. Don't wipe the area, it will spread the spill. Flush the area with plain water and mild soap and rinse several times. Dry the area thoroughly with a soft cloth. Repeat as necessary.

