

# **CUTTING EDGE**

## **STONWORKS**

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### **Natural Stone Care Guide**

Purchasing natural stone is an investment in elegance that will give you many years of wear.

Below are a few tips on how to properly care for your natural stone and help extend its life and beauty.

Following are some simple precautions: properly sealing and using the correct cleaning methods and products will insure you a lifetime of use for your natural stone.

#### **Sealing Your Stone**

Natural stone has been formed over millions of years but improper care can ruin nature's exquisiteness. Although we usually think of stone as "hard", it is a porous material that can absorb spills and stains if untreated. Sealing your stone with a quality impregnating sealer will prevent most spills from damaging your investment.

There are a wide variety of sealers available, so you need to select one for your specific needs and natural stone type. Impregnating sealers with new, advanced fluoropolymer technology penetrate the stone and help protect it against water and oil-based stains. Industry professionals now recognize that natural stone is best protected with a fluoropolymer-based sealer. We recommend sealing your new stone with Tenax Ager on polished stone and Tenax Protex on honed and brushed materials.

Polished Marble is easily etched if any acidic liquids are spilled or sprayed on it. Be careful of makeup, nail polish, nail polish remover and ammonia based cleaners. They can all etch the polished marble surface.

#### **Cleaning Procedures**

Keep your stone dry and free of dust, sand and oil. This will minimize scratches and wear-patterns that can develop from everyday use of some natural stone, such as marble, limestone, and sandstone. Dust all natural stone surfaces regularly to remove loose soil and dirt.

Clean your natural stone on a regular basis with warm water and a clean, non-abrasive cloth, sponge or mop. In addition, using a neutral cleaner specially formulated for natural stone will help remove soils that normal dusting or damp mopping leave behind.

Do not use general purpose cleaners or you may damage your stone or the sealer applied. Do not use products that contain lemon, vinegar, or other acids as these may etch the stone surface and damage the polish. Do not use scouring powders or creams; these products contain abrasives that may scratch the surface.

## Spills

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No matter how careful you are spills are going to happen. A quick response and the right solutions can keep spills from damaging your stone or the sealer.

**Etch Marks** - Substances that are highly acidic, such as orange/lemon juice, coffee, vinegar, wine, tomato products, mustard and many soft drinks, will "etch" most marble, limestone, and travertine- whether the stone is sealed or unsealed. Although sealing allows you time to wipe up a spill, it cannot stop the chemical reaction that may leave a dull area or etch mark in the stone.

In addition, cleaners are not specifically designed for natural stone are not recommended. These may etch away the polish, discolor the surface, scratch the stone or degrade the sealer. Selecting the correct cleaning products is so important to the lifetime beauty of your natural stone.

Professional refinishing is the best way to permanently remove etch marks and restore your natural stone's even finish.

**Food Spills** - Scoop up the food with a plastic spoon. Blot with dry, white cloth. Spray the area with Revitalizer™. Wipe dry with a clean cloth.

**Liquid Spills** - Blot away the excess with a clean, dry, white cloth; turning the cloth frequently. Spray the area with Revitalizer™. Wipe dry with a clean cloth.

**Mud** - Let the mud stain dry completely. Remove dried mud with a soft plastic or nylon brush. Spray affected area with Revitalizer™. Wipe dry with a clean cloth. If the stain remains, contact a professional cleaner.

**Oily Stains** - If you identify the stain as having an oil base (from foods like salad and cooking oils, butter, or some cosmetics) you may be able to remove the stain using a poultice. We recommend StoneTech Professional™ Extract Oil Stain Removal Paste. This easy-to-use poultice is designed to slowly remove oily stains from natural stone surfaces. Follow the directions on the label.

### **Protect Your Investment-**

**Do** use coasters under glasses, especially if they contain alcohol or citrus juices.

**Do** use trivets or mats under hot dishes or cookware.

**Do** use placemats under china, ceramics, silver or other objects that may scratch your stone's surface.

**Do** place a small rug or mat at entryways to trap dirt and sand from normal foot traffic.

**Do** dust countertops, islands, vanities, and floors frequently.

**Do** blot up spills immediately to minimize permanent damage to the stone.

**Do** clean surfaces by wiping with clean water or spraying with StoneTech Professional™ Revitalizer™ cleaner, then wiping dry with a clean cloth.

**Do not** use vinegar, bleach, ammonia or other general purpose cleaners.

**Do not** use cleaners that contain acid such as bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners or tub and tile cleaners.

**Do not** use abrasive cleaners such as dry cleansers or soft cleansers.

**Do not** use alkaline cleaners not specifically formulated for natural stone.