

## STONE AND TILE CARE GUIDE

### COUNTERTOPS

**Always** place drinks containing fruit juices or alcohol on a coaster. Fruit juices, alcohol, lemons, pickle juice etc., can damage the surface of the stone. This should also be done with dishes or trays that have a rough surface on the bottom so that scratches do not occur. Do not use scouring pads as they can scratch or dull the surface.

**Never** place hot pots and pans on stone countertops. This can cause heat fractures or burn marks, especially on quartz countertops.

**Note:** Bathroom vanities can damage easily from nail polish, shaving cream, hair spray, perfumes, toothpaste etc. Soaps can penetrate into the stone leaving stains. Bathroom cleaners like toilet bowl or shower cleaners are often acid based and will severely etch your calcium-based products. So either keep them away or always place them on a clean cloth or coaster of some sort.

### CLEANING PRODUCTS

**Never** use cleaning products that are acid based. These will cause severe damage to calcium-based stones like marble and limestone. Avoid using dish soaps as these can leave a film on the surface that makes the stone appear dull and lifeless.

**Always** use cleaners designed for stone care. These are typically ph-balanced cleaners, also known as '**Neutral Cleaners**'. These can be purchased at local tile distribution centers.

### HOW TO CLEANUP SPILLS

**Always** clean up any spills quickly. Use a clean white terry towel or micro-fiber cloth. Blot up the spill but try not to rub it as this may spread damage caused by acidic food or chemical cleaners (Includes alcohol).

On calcium-based stones like marble, limestone, travertine, and onyx fruit juices, pickle juice, alcohol, and or harsh cleaners will instantly etch the stone. The longer the product remains the more damage it causes. If this happens you will require a stone care expert to restore the surface so be careful.

## SHOWER STALLS

**Always** wipe off excess water from your shower walls after each time it is used. This will remove damaging hard water, soaps etc. that can buildup over time. Use a squeegee or towel it dry. Give it a good cleaning once per week or more often depending on usage.

**Never** use cleaners that contain acids. Always read the label. Acid cleaners can ruin your stone and the only remedy is refinishing. Only use cleaners purchased from a tile showroom or distribution center that are specifically labeled safe for natural stone. You can purchase safe soap film removers from these centers.

**Note:** periodically inspect your grout lines to see if they are soiling. If so, use a good cleaner and a soft nylon scrub brush to remove. Also inspect the silicone in the corners. At some point the silicone needs replacing. Scrap it out carefully, clean with acetone and a rag, then when dry apply a small bead of new silicone.

## MAINTAINING STONE FLOORS

### TOOLS REQUIRED:

1. Dry untreated dust mop
2. Micro-fiber or mop bucket with white loop damp mop
3. Neutral cleaner

**It is very important to keep the floor free of dust, dirt and sand as these will damage the stone, cause scratches and dull the surface quickly.**

- Dust mop daily. In high traffic areas dust mop several times per day.
- Damp mop once per week or more often if the weather is bad.
- **Note:** do not use too much soap in the water as this will cause streaking
- Use walk off mats at door entries. This will reduce dirt and water on floors
- **Note:** clean under edges of mats regularly as sand accumulates and scratches



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