

CARE & MAINTENANCE

EXTERIOR

General Precautions

- For exterior applications, flashing and proximity to metal or water may require additional attention or maintenance.
- Graffiti/Spray Paint: paint and graffiti removal products can be used. Pressure Washing can be used for extreme situations but may alter the factory surface slightly. A more matte finish will be left by this process. Over time the variation will blend with the natural oxidation process.
- Applied finishes or sealers are not recommended as they will tend to flake and deteriorate from UV exposure.
- Normal wear and tear due to elements will change the surface over time and oxidize in a similar way to cedar siding.

INTERIOR

General Precautions

- Richlite is stain resistant to most common substances on interior applications.
- In residential applications, some raw meat juice (such as liver), high-alkaline fruit or vegetables (such as papaya and red beets), red wine and high-alkaline soaps (such as automatic dishwasher powder and oven cleaners) may cause staining when left in contact for a prolonged time.
- The lighter colors in the Richlite color range will show stains more than the darker colors. Additionally, grout (high alkaline) will lighten darker-colored Richlite counters and darken the lighter tones.
- Avoid using bleach products or abrasive powdered cleaners. It is good to avoid using the abrasive side of sponges as this may also scratch the surface of a Richlite countertop.
- Generally speaking, Richlite resists stains quite well. As with most any material, there is a potential for some staining. With stubborn stains, try a nonabrasive household cleaner. A unique stain remover is plain yogurt, applied only on the stain area. Let sit over night for 3-4 applications, wiping away in the mornings, to lighten stains.

Mill Surface

- Often requires very little maintenance due to textured surface.
- Wet rag (soap & water) for other applications.
- Cleaning agents may affect the surface which is not protected by an applied finish.
- Repairs – very difficult to repair as the textured surface will show any changes and cannot be reproduced.

Leathered Surface

- Warm water and sponge for daily cleaning. Mild soap can be used if needed.
- Howard Naturals Wood Cleaner and Polish or mineral oil can be used to renew the look and feel of the finish.
- Repairs – OSMO® PolyX is a very good spot repair product that can be applied by the end user. Wipe on a small amount and buff into adjacent areas. Allow to dry 24-48 hours before full use. It is compatible with Richlite enhancer and blends very well to a similar finish.
- Do not sand the surface as it will disturb the Factory Surface which cannot be reproduced. Minimal Scotch-Brite® work can be done prior to applied finishes.

CARE & MAINTENANCE (con't)

Sanded Finish

- Warm water and sponge for daily cleaning. Mild soap can be used if needed.
- Howard Naturals Wood Cleaner and Polish or mineral oil can be used to renew the look and feel of the finish.
- Repairs –
- Finish: OSMO® PolyX-Oil. See instructions above.
- Refinishing should be advised by the dealer or fabricator who installed the counter. In most cases, it is preferable if the trained installer refinishes the surface.
- Light scratch marks and burn marks can be refinished using a Scotch-Brite™ pad (#7447/Red Color) on a random orbital sander.
- It is important to note, the refinished area will noticeably lighten compared to the surrounding surface area. Richlite surfaces are made of paper which, like wood, patinas – or darkens – over time, especially in the lighter colors other than Black. The area will eventually patina and match the remainder of the counter surrounding it. In order to avoid affecting one spot, a full sanding and refinishing the entire counter is required, but this is an intensive and not an inexpensive process versus spot treatment.