

# GF NATURAL STONE COUNTERTOP CARE & MAINTENANCE

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## INTRODUCTION

Natural Stone countertops are a popular choice for modern homes due to their durability and aesthetic appeal. This guide provides essential tips for maintaining the beauty and longevity of your countertops.

## DAILY CLEANING

- Routine Cleaning: Use a soft cloth or sponge with warm water and mild dish soap. Avoid harsh scrubbers or abrasive cleaners.
- Spills: Wipe up spills immediately to prevent stains, especially acidic substances like wine, coffee, or tomato sauce.
- Drying: After cleaning, dry the surface with a clean, soft cloth to prevent water spots. Do not leave the wet surface on the countertop for too long.

## AVOID DAMAGE

- Heat Exposure: Always use trivets or hot pads under hot pots, pans, or baking sheets. Natural stones such as Granite are heat resistant, but not heatproof.
- Cutting: Use cutting boards to prevent scratches. Although Natural stones are scratch resistant, they are not scratch-proof.
- Chemicals and Solvents: Avoid contact with harsh chemicals like paint removers, bleach, nail polish removers, and oil soaps. If contact occurs, rinse immediately with water.
- Avoid Impact: Natural stones are durable, but not indestructible. Avoid dropping heavy objects on the countertop.

## DEALING WITH STAINS & DEEP CLEANING

- Stubborn Stains: Use a glass or surface cleaner and a non-abrasive sponge. For tough stains, a paste of baking soda and water can be applied, then gently scrubbed.
- Gum or Grease: Use a plastic putty knife to gently scrape off gum, paint, or other hardened substances. For grease, apply a degreaser and rinse thoroughly after use.

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- Use Mats or Runners: Protect areas prone to spills and stains, like under coffee machines or in baking areas.
- Avoid Direct Sunlight: Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight can cause discoloration over time, especially for darker colors.

## PERSONAL MAINTENANCE

- Annual Inspection: Consider having a professional inspect your countertops annually for any potential issues like cracks or chips.
- Repairing Damages: If any chips or cracks occur, contact a professional for repair. Do not attempt to fix it yourself as this could lead to more damage.
- Sealant: Seal the countertops periodically, at least once in a year for better resistance stain and water marks.

## CONCLUSION

With proper care and maintenance, your Natural Stone countertops will remain beautiful and durable for many years. Avoid harsh chemicals, protect from heat and scratches, and clean spills promptly to maintain their pristine condition.