

SLABS *by design*

BEAUTIFULLY UNIQUE, CUSTOM CONCRETE FURNITURE

DESIGNED & PRODUCED IN AUSTRALIA

CONCRETE CARE GUIDE





UNIQUELY / YOURS

The character of concrete is undeniable, it's simple harmony of form and function. By its very nature, your bespoke slab is hard wearing, and long lasting; concrete is durable and practical, it ages gracefully, distinctively and will weather and patina over time.

As part of our hand-crafted process, your surface has been polished and sealed to the highest possible standard. Our sealant is food-grade safe upon curing and is heat resistant to 149°C (300°F), this acts as a barrier against scratches and stains, and is there to protect your piece from general everyday use. To ensure a satisfying aesthetic experience, we've put together this cleaning and maintenance guide for your custom piece; prolonging its natural beauty and raw organic feel, for a lifetime.

TOUGH? YES. INDESTRUCTIBLE? NO.

We like to think of our slabs as low-maintenance, practical pieces, but as with anything truly unique: perfection is not flawless. Your piece has its own characteristics and tendencies, which are useful to know as it becomes part of your personal space – and of course, what to do when accidents happen!

TENDER LOVING CARE / THE BASICS

Our tips & techniques for the continuing care and cleaning of your surfaces:

Daily.

For every day, routine cleaning we recommend wiping surfaces with a warm damp cloth. Use soapy water (or mild detergent) if preferred, but avoid harsh chemical cleaners, abrasive cloths and forceful scrubbing. Wipe up spills as soon as possible, to avoid potential staining.

Liquid spills.

Don't panic, our premium sealant is food-grade safe upon curing and acts as a barrier against spills. Use a non-acidic and non-abrasive cleanser and rinse well with water. Avoid vigorous scrubbing in the same area as this will affect the performance of the sealant.

Take a little extra care with acidic substances.

One of the most harmful elements to concrete is acid. Try to remove any lemon, vinegar, wine or other acids from the surface as soon as possible and wipe areas after cooking or food preparation, otherwise it may etch into the sealant and leave it exposed to future staining.

Food preparation.

We always recommend cutting on an appropriate cutting board and never directly on the concrete, to avoid blunting kitchen knives or damaging the surface of your slab.

Heat resistance.

While the sealer is heat resistant, excessive direct heat with very hot items such as hot plates and saucepans can damage your concrete surface. We always recommend the use of a hot mat, or trivet, for cookware and serving dishes.

The elements.

Our sealant is UV stable, and suitable for outdoor use. When it comes to decorative items, we suggest rotating your table centrepieces (ie. vases, planters) occasionally if exposed to direct sunlight as mild colour change may occur over an extended period of time. We also recommend not leaving items such as vases, candles or plant pots on the table for an extended duration in heavy rain conditions (avoids water pooling, and any marking/staining). The same rule of thumb applies for debris - such as leaves and dirt after heavy rain - as they can cause staining if left for prolonged periods. Outdoor furniture covers will help protect further from the elements.

Take it slow.

Concrete is not immune to small chips and breakages particularly on exposed edges, if impacted with hard objects. Decorate to your hearts content, but try to avoid excessively heavy objects and centerpieces being placed or dragged across your slab. Avoid the urge to have a dance party on your new piece, we know it's tempting.

Accessories are everything.

Consider a table runner, some coasters or soft placemats, to keep pieces even more protected.

REPAIRING & REFURBISHING

We love the natural patina that a well-loved slab develops – but for severely worn pieces, the surface can be rejuvenated by sanding and a new coat of sealant. Concrete is a natural product, and it behaves like one: as such the re-sealing process can change the appearance of the surface and new variations and pinholes can appear.

Expect the wear of your product to contribute to its uniqueness. Hairline cracks, mottling and slight irregularities may occur with time, but these aren't a defect. For restoration on serious chips or cracks, grouting mixes and solutions are available.

Please contact us about options for ongoing maintenance, and repairs – start with some photos and we'll take it from there.





WE THOUGHT TWICE, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO

Our concrete basins and vanities receive an additional coat of sealant, to give them an extra bit of protection. Here's a few more tips to preserve your piece, and peace of mind:

Be kind.

Use warm water and a soft cloth to clean the basin or vanity. Mild household cleaner or liquid soaps can help, but avoid abrasives, chlorines/bleach, or ammoniums. Clean up any spillages, that may stain. Particular bathroom-based villains to watch out for, include oil-based foundation and body products, nail polish and nail-polish remover.

Stay dry.

Try not to leave basins filled with water, unplug and dry where possible. Clean away any pooling water, particularly at the base of the basin, to minimize any possible discolouration over time.

Your hands are lovely.

Try to avoid lemon/acidic based hand washes which break down the sealant faster; embrace the softer side.

SHINE ON

Wax on. Wax off.

With every basin or vanity purchase, you receive a complimentary bottle of specialist maintenance wax to prolong the life of your custom piece. All concrete has been carefully sealed but the day-to-day use over time can compromise the sealant and so a little upkeep goes a long way. Wax provides an additional layer of protection, and fills any imperfections. Your piece has been finished with a sealant, but normal wear and tear removes the finish over time. For general maintenance, and to restore luster, apply a thin layer of wax onto the surface in a circular motion, using a soft damp cloth. Allow time for the wax to penetrate, then buff with a soft cotton cloth. We recommend applying the wax once every 3 months. Spare wax is available to purchase via our website.

HANDCRAFTED, IN AUSTRALIA

Thank you for choosing Slabs by Design to craft your original product by hand, right here in Australia. Maintain it, enjoy it, embrace it for what it is – concrete, hand poured honestly and earnestly. No two slabs are ever the same: we hope you cherish your practical, beautiful and exclusive piece, as you care for it over time.

SINCERELY, CONCRETE ✕