

## MARBLE / TRAVERTINE / LIMESTONE CARE

The natural stone you have purchased for your home is an investment that will give you many years of beautiful service. Simple care and maintenance will help you preserve your stone's beauty for generations to come.

The first step in proper stone care and maintenance is to understand your stone's geological classification and composition.

Calcareous stones, such as marble, limestone, travertine, and onyx, is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, a chemical compound commonly found in natural stone, shells and pearls. Calcium Carbonate is sensitive to acidic solutions so mild, non-acidic cleaners are recommended.

Your stone has been sealed using a sealer called **Stain-Repella**. It will provide a high level of protection and resistance to staining under the limitation of "normal and customary use and care". This generally is interpreted as providing a window of time to clean a spill, such as bacon grease, without the oil absorbing into the stone. Since natural stone varies in density and mineral composition, this window of time varies from stone to stone. Sealers will not prevent surface etching from acid-based products, certain minerals in tap water, and certain oils in some foods.

There is no sealer that will prevent staining across all categories of natural stone on an absolute basis. **Sealing your stone does not make it stain-proof, it makes it more resistant to staining.** Care and quick cleanup are imperative so that stains do not have time to set up.

### Care and Precautions

#### Initial Spills:

Blot a spill with a paper towel immediately. Don't wipe the area, it will spread the spill. Flush area with plain water and mild dishwashing soap. Rinse area with water. Dry area with soft cloth; repeat as necessary.

#### Everyday Cleaning:

Clean stone surfaces with a few drops of a neutral cleaner, stone soap or a mild liquid dishwashing detergent and warm water. Use a soft a soft cloth or sponge to apply. Too much cleaner or soap may leave a film and leave streaks. Do not use products that contain lemon, vinegar or other acids on marble or other calcareous stones. Rinse the surface thoroughly after washing with soap solution and dry with soft cloth. Change your rinse water frequently. Do not use scouring powders or creams; these products contain abrasives and will scratch the stone. Dry surfaces with a clean dry cloth.

#### Everyday Use and Prevention:

Use coasters under all glasses, particularly those containing alcohol, coffee, or citrus juices. Use cutting boards for food prep. Many common foods and drinks contain acids that will etch or dull the surface of many spills. Do not place hot items directly on the stone surface. Use trivets or mats under hot dishes and placemats under china, ceramics, silver or other objects that might scratch the surface.



## Dos and Don'ts

Do Clean surfaces with mild detergent.

Do Thoroughly rinse and dry the surface after washing.

Do Blot up spills immediately

Do Protect counter surfaces with coasters, trivets or placemats

Do Use a cutting board

Do Thaw frozen items on a dish or platter

Do Use a hot pad to place hot pans on

Do Use a pad or cutting board under slow cooker

Don't Pull pans, skillets, ceramic pots or plates across surface of counters

Don't Use vinegar, lemon juice or other cleaners containing acids on your stone especially marbles, travertines or onyx

Don't Use cleaners containing acid, such as bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners or tile cleaners

Don't Use abrasive dry or soft cleaners

Don't Use cleaners containing ammonia or bleach

Don't Use your counter tops as a work bench. Keep heavy sharp tools off of counter

Don't Use counter as a ladder or to stand on