

Care & Maintenance Guide



IMPORTANT: Please read prior to using your new cabinetry, as resultant damage caused by failing to follow the care and maintenance guidelines contained in this document may void your guarantee.

STONE (General) - Benchtops

Stone benchtops can be made from Granite, Reconstituted Stone or Marble.

LIMITATIONS OF STONE BENCHTOPS

- Support rails have been incorporated in opening apertures of your sink, hotplates, dishwasher etc. However, because of the reduced amount of stone left, the area immediately surrounding these areas are more vulnerable to accidental damage and/or abuse.
- Stone benchtops are **NOT** unbreakable.
- The appearance of a crack does not imply faulty material. Cracks are generally associated with ground movement or settlement. Cracks developed in tops after installation are not covered under warranty.
- If you believe your fabricated stone benchtops are faulty or damaged, please consult with an appropriately experienced and qualified stone mason.

General Care and Maintenance Tips for Stone Benchtops:

DO

- Clean with a mild detergent which is ammonia based or similar.
- You may clean all surfaces with Methylated Spirits.
- After the stone has dried, you may wipe it with a clean rag to remove any streaks.

DON'T

- Do not sit, stand or lean on areas of weakness such as joins, the front or rear of sink and hotplate areas or overhang side of an island bench.
- Do not use harsh acids or cleaners that contain acidity such as citric acid or vinegar on marble.
- Do not use scourers or abrasive products on stone surfaces.
- Do not drag heavy sharp objects over stone surfaces
- Do not place hot items such as roasting trays or boiling pots directly from the oven or burner and onto the stone surface.
- This can crack the stone.
- Do not clean any stone surface with thinners or mineral turpentine.

ENGINEERED STONE - Benchtops

Engineered stones are generally 91% to 95% quartz based. They are manufactured to ensure ease of maintenance and longevity. They will withstand exposure to tea, soda, wine, vinegar, lemon juice and strongly coloured spices. As with any surface, it can be permanently damaged by exposure to strong chemicals and solvents that undermine its physical properties.

DO NOT USE products that contain trichloroethane or methylene chloride, such as paint removers or strippers. Avoid any aggressive cleaning agents like oven cleaner that have high alkaline levels. Should the surface be accidentally exposed, rinse immediately with water to neutralise the effect.

Heat Resistance

Care should be taken to always avoid any direct contact with hot temperatures; radiated heat from very hot surfaces may cause thermal shock, discolouration, damage or cracking - We recommend that you place hot items on a hot pad or trivet.

Care & Maintenance Tips

Engineered stone requires very little maintenance to keep the surface looking new. For everyday, routine cleaning we recommend wiping the surface with warm soapy water (a mild detergent) and a damp cloth. For extra stubborn dried spills and stains we recommend CaesarStone® branded cream cleanser and an all-purpose scrubber with warm water.

As engineered stone is non-porous, it will keep its lustrous gloss and ultra smooth surface without polishing, and it never needs sealing.

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GRANITE - Benchtops

Granite is a hard but porous stone. Variation in colour, grain, structure and veining is to be expected. Small holes, pot marks, fine cracks, crystals and imperfections are common in many granite colours and are unavoidable. Different granites come in varying slab sizes and as such joints in benchtops may be unavoidable.

- Granite might stain if it comes in contact with many household items. Particular care should be taken with hot oil.
- Granite might scratch if it comes in contact with another stone.
- Granite might crack if it comes in contact with extremely hot items.
- Granite might crack if it is abused or misused.

Care & Maintenance Tips

Clean with methylated spirits or a mild detergent that has NO ammonia (or acidic) base. Cleaning solution must be pH balanced or neutral (Acidic cleaners abrade the polish from the stone; sealers do not protect polished surfaces from these types of cleaners). Smudges, water spots and hazy areas may be brought to shiny finish again by using DRY #000 or finer steel wool on a dry surface.

Products for cleaning, sealing and maintenance of granite benchtops can be purchased from your local hardware store.

You may, every 3 – 6 months apply a liquid stone wax to granite.

Apply the wax with a natural fibre cloth, and rub in until there is no more wax residue on the surface of the stone. Any residue can be removed with "00" grade dry steel wool.

Liquid Stone Wax enhances and seals the polished shine on your stone benchtop, it creates a transparent barrier between your stone top and any spills, as well as providing protection against daily wear and tear.

MARBLE - Benchtops

Marble is a soft porous natural stone, and is more suited to bathrooms or non-cooking areas. Variation in colour, grain, structure and veining is to be expected. Small holes, pot marks, fine cracks, and imperfections are common in many marble colours and are unavoidable. Different marble comes in varying slab sizes and as such joints in benchtops may be frequent.

- Marble can be easily scratched.
- Marble easily stains (with almost any household item), as such, it is more suited to bathrooms or non-cooking areas.
- Marble may crack if it comes in contact with hot materials.
- Marble cracks easily if abused or misused.
- Marble is only recommended if very little abuse is likely.

Where the surface has been stained, scratched or cracked there is little chance of satisfactory rectification.

Care & Maintenance Tips

Clean with methylated spirits or a mild detergent that has NO ammonia base or similar. Products for cleaning, sealing and maintenance of marble benchtops can be purchased from your local hardware store or supermarket. To remove fresh stains, pure methylated spirits or pure chlorine can be used.

1. Put methylated spirits or chlorine on a clean white cloth and leave it on the stain for at least 24 hours.
2. Repeat this process as many times as required to dissolve the stain.

Please Note: Chlorine on polished marble surfaces may create dull spots. Specialised machinery operated by a qualified stone mason can be used for the removal of light scratches.

You may, every 3 – 6 months apply a liquid stone wax to marble. Apply the wax with a natural fibre cloth, and rub in until there is no more wax residue on the surface of the stone. Any residue can be removed with "00" grade dry steel wool.

Liquid Stone Wax enhances and seals the polished shine on your stone benchtop, it creates a transparent barrier between your stone top and any spills, as well as providing protection against daily wear and tear.

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GLASS - Splashbacks

It is recommended that a glass surface cleaner (clear liquid) is used in cleaning to minimise smearing. Use only cleaning material free of grit and grime to avoid scratching and/or marking of glass surface.

Compound cleaners may remove stubborn marks, but are not recommended due to the likely damage to the glass surface.

How to clean

- Flood the glass surface with the cleaning solution. Be generous with the amount of solution applied.
- Scrub the wetted surface with a clean, lint free towel or cloth.
- Wipe dry with a dry, clean, lint free towel or cloth.
- To prevent streaking, stop wiping once the glass is almost dry and there is a uniform film of moisture on the glass surface.

What to avoid

- Do not store or place items in contact with the glass. This can damage the glass or create a heat trap leading to thermal breakage.
- Never use abrasive cleaners or powder based cleaners on glass.
- Do not use scouring pads or other harsh materials (eg. Scraper blades).
- Avoid causing extreme temperature changes as this may cause thermal fracture of the glass, ie. Do not splash hot water on cold glass or freezing water on hot glass.

If glass is damaged or broken

For safety reasons, ensure that glaziers handle the situation.

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If you require any further information
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