

Care & Maintenance Guide

Stone Benchtops & Splashbacks



IMPORTANT: Please read this document prior to using your new cabinetry. Damage resulting from failure to follow the care and maintenance guidelines may void your guarantee.

STONE (General)

Stone benchtops and splashbacks can be made from the following materials: Granite, Zero Silica Stone (Reconstituted Stone), Marble, Porcelain, or Sintered Stone.

LIMITATIONS OF STONE BENCHTOPS

- Support rails have been incorporated into the openings for your sink, hotplates, dishwasher, etc. However, due to the reduced amount of stone around these areas, they are more vulnerable to accidental damage and/or misuse.
- Stone benchtops are not unbreakable.
- The appearance of a crack does not necessarily indicate faulty material. Cracks are generally associated with ground movement or settlement. Cracks that develop after installation may not be covered under warranty.
- If you believe your stone benchtops are faulty or damaged, please contact Marbut Stone.

General Care and Maintenance Tips for Stone Benchtops:

DO

- Clean with a mild, ammonia-based detergent or a similar cleaner.
- You may clean all surfaces with methylated spirits.
- After the stone has dried, 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 the overhanging side of an island bench.
- Do not use harsh acids or cleaners containing acidity, such as citric acid or vinegar, on marble.
- Do not use scourers or abrasive products on stone surfaces.
- Do not drag heavy or sharp objects across stone surfaces.
- Do not place hot items, such as roasting trays or boiling pots, directly from the oven or burner onto the stone surface. This can cause the stone to crack.
- Do not clean any stone surface with thinners or mineral turpentine.

GRANITE

Granite is a hard but porous stone, and variation in color, grain, structure, and veining is to be expected. Small holes, marks, fine cracks, crystals, and imperfections are common in many granite colors and are unavoidable. Different types of granite come in varying slab sizes, so joints in benchtops may be unavoidable.

- Granite can stain if it comes into contact with many household items, and special care should be taken with hot oil.
- Granite can scratch.
- Granite may crack if exposed to extremely hot items.
- Granite may crack if it is abused or misused.

Care & Maintenance Tips

- Clean with methylated spirits or a mild detergent that does not have an ammonia or acidic base. The cleaning solution should be pH balanced or neutral, as acidic cleaners can abrade the polish from the stone. Sealers do not protect polished surfaces from these types of cleaners.
- Smudges, water spots, and hazy areas can be restored to a shiny finish by using dry #000 or finer steel wool on a dry surface.
- Products for cleaning, sealing, and maintaining granite benchtops can be purchased from your local hardware store.
- Every 3 to 6 months, you may apply liquid stone wax to your granite benchtop.
- Apply the wax with a natural fiber cloth, rubbing it in until no wax residue remains on the stone surface. Any leftover residue can be removed with "00" grade dry steel wool.
- Liquid Stone Wax enhances and seals the polished shine on your granite benchtop, creating a transparent barrier between the stone and spills while providing protection against daily wear and tear.

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ZERO SILICA STONE

(Reconstituted Stone)

Zero silica stone benchtops are designed for ease of maintenance and durability. They can withstand exposure to substances such as tea, soda, wine, vinegar, lemon juice, and strongly colored spices. However, like any surface, they can be permanently damaged by exposure to strong chemicals and solvents that compromise their physical properties.

- **DO NOT USE** products that contain trichloroethane or methylene chloride, such as paint removers or strippers.
- Avoid aggressive cleaning agents, like oven cleaners with high alkaline levels.
- If the surface is accidentally exposed to such chemicals, rinse immediately with water to neutralise the effect.

Heat Resistance

- Care should always be taken to avoid direct contact with hot items.
- Radiated heat from very hot surfaces may cause thermal shock, discolouration, damage, or cracking.
- We recommend placing hot items on a trivet or heat-resistant pad.

Care & Maintenance Tips

Zero silica stone requires very little maintenance to keep the surface looking new. For everyday cleaning, we recommend:

- Wiping the surface with warm soapy water (using a mild detergent) and a damp cloth.
- For tougher stains, a non-abrasive cleaner can be used.
- Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive pads, as these can damage the surface.
- Regularly check for any spills and clean them up promptly to maintain the appearance of the surface.

MARBLE

Marble is a soft, porous natural stone, 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 types come 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), making it more suited to bathrooms or non-cooking areas.
- Marble may crack if it comes into 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 maintaining 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 apply a liquid stone wax to marble every 3–6 months. Apply the wax with a natural fibre cloth, and rub it in until no wax residue remains 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, creating a transparent barrier between your stone and any spills while also providing protection against daily wear and tear.

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PORCELAIN

Porcelain is a highly durable and non-porous surface, ideal for both indoor and outdoor applications. Variation in colour, texture, and finish can occur, adding to the uniqueness of each piece. Porcelain is resistant to stains, scratches, and heat, making it a practical choice for benchtops.

- Porcelain is highly resistant to staining but can still be affected by certain substances if left on the surface for prolonged periods.
- While very durable, porcelain can chip or crack if subjected to heavy impact.
- Direct contact with very hot items should be avoided to prevent potential thermal shock.

Care & Maintenance Tips

- Clean with warm, soapy water (using a mild detergent) and a soft cloth for routine maintenance.
- For tougher stains, use a non-abrasive cleaner specifically designed for porcelain surfaces.
- Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive pads, as they may scratch the surface.
- For outdoor applications, clean regularly to remove dirt and grime to maintain its appearance.
- To maintain the gloss of polished porcelain, avoid the use of acidic cleaners, and consider applying a specific porcelain polish periodically.

SINTERED STONE

Sintered stone is a high-performance surface created from natural minerals, offering a blend of durability and aesthetic appeal. It is non-porous, making it resistant to staining, scratching, and heat. Variation in colour and texture adds character to sintered stone, making it a popular choice for modern kitchens and bathrooms.

- Sintered stone is highly resistant to stains and scratches. However, care should still be taken to avoid heavy impacts, which can chip the surface.
- The surface can withstand high temperatures, but it is recommended to use trivets or heat pads for hot items to prevent thermal shock.

Care & Maintenance Tips

- Clean regularly with warm, soapy water (using a mild detergent) and a soft cloth to maintain its appearance.
- For stubborn stains, a non-abrasive cleaner can be used, but avoid harsh chemicals that may damage the surface.
- Do not use abrasive sponges or pads, as these can scratch the finish.
- To preserve the surface, avoid cutting directly on the stone and use cutting boards for food preparation.
- For outdoor surfaces, regular cleaning is advised to prevent dirt accumulation and maintain the aesthetic appeal.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Marbut Stone Pty Ltd
122-126 National Boulevard
Campbellfield VIC 3061

If you require further information please call us.

1300 MARBUT
marbutstone.com.au

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