



GRANITE COUNTERTOP MAINTENANCE

Why People Choose Granite:

Granite is a popular choice among homeowners building a new home or remodeling kitchen because it offers a beautiful and unique stone look. Little crystals found within the granite catch the light and change the countertop's appearance, and no two slabs of granite are exactly alike. Other advantages to installing granite countertops include:

- - Affordable
- - Color runs all the way through
- - Hundreds of color choices
- - Easy to clean
- - Durable and hard to scratch
- - Burn resistant

Granite Countertop Maintenance Tips:

Daily granite countertop care is as easy as cleaning with a gentle cleanser like Murphy's Oil Soap or mild dishwashing liquid. If needed you can use a synthetic scrubbing pad to clean your granite counter. With the proper maintenance, granite countertops stay new-looking for a long time. Here are easy steps to follow:

- - Wipe up spills immediately
- - Use mild soap and water
- - Rinse
- - Use soft cloth to dry

Removing Stains:

How to remove the stain will depend on what caused the stain. Use the suggestions found on the following chart:

How to Treat Stains on Granite Countertops		
Stain	Treatment	How to Use
Most Stains	1 cup flour, 1-2 T mild dishwashing soap, create a thick paste by mixing with water	Apply to stain, cover overnight with plastic wrap, in the morning scrape mixture from stain with wooden utensil and rinse.
Oil based stains	1 cup flour, 1-2 T mild hydrogen peroxide, form a thick paste by mixing with water	Apply to stain, cover overnight with plastic wrap, in the morning scrape mixture from stain with wooden utensil and rinse.
Organic stains	Combine 12 percent hydrogen peroxide with 2-3 drops of ammonia	This should help to remove stains like coffee and tea.
Ink on dark granite	Lacquer thinner or acetone	Apply to stain.
Ink on light granite	Hydrogen peroxide	Apply to stain.
Wine	Make a mixture of molding plaster and bleach until it becomes a paste	Apply to stain for 30 minutes, remove and rinse.

Standard Sealing Recommendations:

Many professionals recommend sealing granite countertops at least once each year. If you cook frequently in your kitchen and use the countertops daily, you might need to reseal the granite even more frequently every 6 months. You can pick up a sealer at any "big box stores".

Warnings and Cautions:

Because granite is so durable, it's easy to think you can use anything on it. However, this is not true if you really want to keep your counters in good condition. Avoid products with ingredients that include lemon, vinegar or other acids. In fact, it's a good idea to use coasters to protect your counter under glasses containing acidic drinks like alcohol or citrus juices.

And as a final note on granite countertop maintenance, let me remind you that even though you can use harsher chemicals to clean your counter, doing so may dull or even etch the counter's finish. Stick with milder solutions and retain that natural beauty you fell in love with in the first place.