

Stone countertops are an increasingly popular. Cleaning stone counters is easy provided that you use the right materials to avoid damaging the stone.

## **Supplies to Use**

Several different kinds of stone are commonly used including soapstone, granite, marble and corian. While it can be tempting to purchase fancy and expensive stone cleaning solvents, the truth is that you can use items that are found in almost any home kitchen to remove stains and spills. Vinegar, baking soda and mild liquid soap are all popular and work extremely well.

## **Quartz Countertops**

### **Routine Care**

To keep granite countertops clean, use a microfiber cloth to dust off the surface. Wipe down the granite countertop daily and as needed using water. Once a week wipe down with a damp cloth and a stone cleaner formulated with a neutral pH. Never use harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners. They can scratch, pit, and etch the surface of the stone. For oily stains, try a poultice made of a cup of flour or baking soda and 5 tablespoons of dish soap. Add water to make it the consistency of sour cream or yogurt. Place the solution directly on the stain and cover with plastic wrap overnight, before washing away the poultice.

### **Food Spills**

Scoop up spilled food off granite countertops with a plastic spoon. Try not to spread it around with a towel but rather blot with dry, white cloth. Spray the granite countertops area with a neutral stone cleaner such as Granite Gold Daily Cleaner and wipe off excess with a clean cloth.

### **Preventing Etch Marks in Countertops**

Highly acidic substances such as orange juice, coffee, vinegar, wine, tomato products, mustard, and many soft drinks will “etch” most marble, limestone and travertine. Sealing allows you time to wipe up a spill, but it cannot stop the chemical reaction that may leave a dull mark. General household cleaners not specifically designed for natural stone are not recommended. These may etch away the polish, discolor the surface, scratch the stone or degrade the sealer. Professional refinishing is the best way to permanently remove etch marks and restore your natural stone’s even finish.

### ***BSI Millshop Recommendations for Granite:***

Daily cleaning should be done with a 3 in 1 spray such as GranQuartz 113M Cleaner. This will clean the counter, polish the stone and act as a protection coat against staining for the next day’s use. Should a stain occur a natural stone deep cleaner such as GranQuartz 515C Periodic Intensive Cleaner should be used to remove stains or heavy grease. While the 3 in 1 cleaner will offer daily sealer, an actual natural stone sealer, GranQuartz 357E Stone Sealer/Enhancer, should still be applied at least once a year, more with heavy use. The sealer should be applied per the manufacturer’s instructions.

## **Zodiaq Quartz Countertops**

### **Routine Care**

With simple care, quartz countertops will retain its radiant, lustrous appearance for many years. For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or paper towel and, if necessary, a small amount of non-bleach, nonabrasive cleanser.

Even though quartz resists permanent staining when exposed to liquids (such as wine, vinegar, tea, lemon juice and soda) or fruits and vegetables, wipe up food and liquid spills as soon as possible.

For stubborn or dried spills, use a nonabrasive cleaning pad such as a white 3M Scotch-Brite®\* scrub pad coupled with Formula 409® Glass & Surface Cleaner\*\* or a comparable cleaning product.

Avoid using cleansers that contain bleach. Always follow the cleaner manufacturer's use instructions and exercise proper care when handling and storing any cleaning products.

## Removing Difficult Spills

Sometimes spills occur and dry on the countertop. For materials that harden as they dry (such as gum, food, grease, nail polish or paint), remove by gently scraping away the excess with a plastic putty knife.

Permanent markers and inks may adhere to the surface and should be avoided. Should these agents come into contact with the surface, clean first as outlined in Routine Care. If the stain persists, moisten a cloth with Goo Gone®\*\*, or a comparable product and rub it into the stain. Rinse thoroughly with warm water to remove any cleaner residue.

When grease from cooking is an issue, use Greased Lightning™\*\* or a comparable degreasing product to help loosen and remove the grease from the surface. Use the manufacturer's instructions for applying and removing the cleaner.

Avoid exposing quartz surfaces to strong chemicals and solvents, especially paint removers or furniture strippers containing trichlorethane or methylene chloride. Keep nail polish remover, bleach, bluing, permanent markers or inks, and oil soaps away from quartz.

While casual exposure to alkaline materials will not damage quartz, highly alkaline (high-pH) cleansers are not recommended when cleaning quartz.

If any of the substances listed above come into quartz, rinse the exposed surface immediately and thoroughly with water.

\*\*Greased Lightning™ is available through major department, grocery, and hardware stores.

## Corian Countertops

### Routine Care

There are three types of Corian® countertop finishes: matte/satin, semi-gloss and high-gloss\*. Most countertops are finished with a matte/satin finish.

Soapy water, ammonia based cleaners (not window cleaners as they can leave a waxy build up that may dull the surface) or commercially available solid surface cleaners will remove most dirt and residue from all types of finishes. Stubborn residue will require a little stronger cleaner.

Follow the recommendations below to properly clean your countertop and sink.

Experience has shown that a film builds up on the surface if water is left to dry on the countertop. This film will dull the look of the countertop making the finish appear blotchy and uneven. To prevent build up of the film, it is very important to wipe the countertop completely dry after spills and cleaning.

Some colors of Corian® may require more frequent cleaning to maintain a uniform finish. Darker colors tend to require more attention than lighter colors. Over time, even with proper care, your countertop will acquire a patina, changing the appearance of the finish. You may restore the look of the original finish by following the refurbishing guidelines below.

A key to keeping your countertops looking good is to thoroughly rinse and wipe completely dry after cleaning.

## **Meganite Countertops**

### **Routine Care**

Meganite™ has physical properties which do not allow food, dirt, bacteria or germs to penetrate its surface. Routine cleaning with soap and water and a sponge, or window cleaner and paper towels will remove most dirt and/or stains. To disinfect, occasionally wipe the surface with equal parts of household bleach and water. Always towel dry to remove water spots.

## **Cambria Quartz Countertops**

### **Routine Care**

Maintaining Cambria is easy. Simply wash with a soft cotton cloth and warm water, use a mild soap if desired.

DO NOT expose, in use or otherwise, Cambria to abrasive or strong alkaline or acid or free radicals or oxidizers or the like (whether high, neutral or low pH) cleaners. Various chemicals are corrosive and/or erosive in their ability to attack any structure including Cambria. Be very aware of these potential damages to your surface.

Cambria IS NOT heat proof, chemical proof or fracture proof in any form. Be aware of damaging exposure to these potential damaging acts upon your Cambria.

DO NOT use or expose Cambria to such products including, but not limited to bleach, oven cleaners, Comet®, Soft Scrub®, SOS®, products with pumice, batteries, paint removers, furniture strippers, tarnish or silver cleaners, or the like. DO NOT use abrasive or harsh scrub pads. DO NOT apply any sealers, penetrants or topical treatments to Cambria under any circumstances. Such products will wear off and cause the gloss to appear dull or inconsistent.

## **Caesar Countertops**

### **Routine Care**

Its hard, nonporous surface makes CaesarStone simple to clean. In most cases, soap and water or a mild detergent is all that is required to maintain its luster. If necessary, apply common, non-abrasive, household cleaners such as Soft Scrub Liquid Gel with Bleach or Comet Soft Cleanser Cream With Bleach directly on a damp cloth or sponge and wipe the surface, rinsing thoroughly after cleaning. To remove adhered material such as food, gum, or nail polish, first scrape away the excess material with a plastic putty knife and then clean the surface with a damp cloth to remove any marks left behind and any residual dirt.

## **Staron Countertops**

### **Routine Care**

General cleaning of your Staron® solid surfaces can be done by wiping the surface with a damp cloth or sponge, then dry with soft cloth or paper towels to prevent spotting; especially in areas with hard water.

Clean with an ammonia-based product such as household glass cleaner or commercially available non-abrasive spray-on cleaners for solid surface products. Wipe dry with a soft cloth or paper towels to prevent spotting.

Dark colors in countertop surfaces and particularly dark colors that have been finished to a gloss, like anything else, will potentially show signs of use, such as scratches and soap residue, more readily than light colored solid surface materials.

Therefore, a gloss finish generally requires additional maintenance and care to retain its original luster. Different cleaning techniques are required to remove stubborn stains and minor scratches depending on the type of finish and color as detailed in the following instructions (Note: please contact your certified fabricator/installer if you are uncertain which type of finish is applied to your Staron solid surfaces).

DO NOT attempt to repair deep scratches, chips or burns, contact a certified Staron fabricator/installer.

## **Avonite Countertops**

### **Routine Care**

#### **Matte Finish**

##### *Cleaning*

A sponge, soap and water will clean most stains. For more stubborn stains use a green Scotch Brite pad and an abrasive cleanser. Periodically go over the entire matte surface with a dry green Scotch Brite pad to return the original finish.

##### *Scratches*

To remove scratches, start sanding with 240 grit paper and then clean with an abrasive cleanser and a green Scotch Brite pad.