

## Granite Counter Do's & Dont's

The easiest way to keep your stone looking great is to avoid bad habits that may damage it. Granite, marble, travertine, limestone, soapstone, quartz and solid surface are similar in many ways, but their differences require varying degrees of maintenance.

If you utilize the granite counter top care and cleaning procedures that follow for all your countertops . . . no matter what type of stone or surface . . . you'll eliminate most potential problems without ever having to think too hard about it or worry that you may be causing damage.

**Do:** Blot up spills immediately.

Acidic substances like wine, coffee, fruit juices, tomato sauce and sodas could potentially stain the surface. Cooking oils may also leave a stain if not wiped up.

**Do:** Clean surfaces using a sponge or soft cloth.

Using a specially formulated stone cleaner is recommended to keep your tops in the best condition and protect the sealer, but hot water will do for quick clean-ups. Dish soap won't permanently damage your granite, but repeated use of soap will cause build-up and dull your countertop's shine. So, using dish soap for regular granite counter top care is not recommended.

**Do:** Use trivets and hot pads under pots & pans.

It is possible for granite (or any stone or quartz) to suffer "thermal shock" and crack, but rare.

**Do:** Use cutting boards.

Avoid the possibility of scratching the surface and protect your knives. Cutting on stone will dull and damage your knives' edges quickly.

**Don't:** use generic cleaning products such as bleach, glass cleaners, de-greasers, vinegar, ammonia, lemon, orange or other common household cleaners.

These products that you buy at your local store contain acids, alkalis and other chemicals that will degrade the granite sealer (and will etch marble) leaving the stone vulnerable to staining. Most common and name-brand household products are not good for cleaning granite countertops.

**Don't:** use bathroom, tub & tile or grout cleaners.

The powders and even the "soft" creams contain abrasives that will scratch and dull surfaces.

**Don't:** sit or stand on your countertops.

Unlike laminate countertops, granite, marble and quartz countertops are very hard, but not flexible and they DO NOT have a plywood backing so too much weight in one spot could cause a crack.