

GRANITE CARE

Your granite may or may not come sealed, and it may be necessary to apply sealer once or twice a year. This is easy to do, simply wipe a thin layer over the countertop and allow it to absorb. Granite is porous, like most stones, which means it can absorb liquids that are on it. The sealer fills in the microscopic spaces in the stone that can absorb liquids and possibly stain, however it will not prevent all liquids from staining. To verify that your granite is sealed properly simply put a couple drops of water on the countertop, if the water is absorbed you need sealer, if it beads up the sealer is working properly. You can purchase sealer at your local hardware store, but make sure it is specifically for granite.

With that said here are some tips to help ensure the brilliance of your granite countertops.

- Be extra careful when using anything oily or acidic. Oil will penetrate the stone often discoloring it or leaving it looking dull. For instance, while cooking bacon it is common for oil to shoot off the pan to the nearby countertop. If this happens quickly clean up the oil before it has a chance to penetrate. If the oil does penetrate the granite, try putting an absorbent powder, such as cat litter or flour, on top of it overnight or longer. If this doesn't work try a mixture of 1 cup of flour and 2 tablespoons of hydrogen peroxide. Smear the mixture on the spot, cover with plastic wrap and leave overnight.
- Do not put excessively hot objects directly on the surface of the granite. Granite is made up of a mixture of minerals, some of which crystallize when they come in contact with excessive heat, leaving a discoloration that often cannot be removed or polished out. So try to avoid putting an extremely hot pot or skillet on the countertop.
- Metal objects will not scratch granite, but some metals can rub off on them. So make sure to lift, not to drag metal over the surface of the counter top. For instance, if you have something made of a softer metal and it is dragged across the granite it can leave a metal mark, which will look like a shiny line on the granite. This metal mark can be difficult to remove without seeking professional help. You can try to use steel wool and acetone. Pour the acetone on the mark and scrub the area with the steel wool hard. It is recommended to use a very fine steel wool. It may seem that it is not working but scrub it diligently and it will gradually fade. The steel wool will not leave marks.
- Granite is a very hard stone and can withstand contact with most things without scratching. However, diamond rings can scratch the granite if rubbed hard enough, so ladies, be careful with that ring, especially on darker granites where scratches are more apparent! Generally sand will not affect the granite, but



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should be avoided. For instance, don't drag your ice chest with a sandy bottom across the counter. If you have a cutting board made out of granite, make sure that there is a soft material on the bottom such as felt or cork because granite will scratch granite.

- Keep in mind that granite is a natural stone and can chip, flake, and/or crack. Avoid excessive abuse. For instance, beating the granite with a hammer is generally not a good idea. Avoid standing or walking on any thin strips. It's also wise to avoid putting excessive weight on a raised bar.
- Although it is not a necessity, using a cleaner that is specifically for granite or stone surfaces will ensure that the sealer is not being affected. Soap and water works well on kitchen countertops.
- Another helpful habit is to not leave your dish soap bottle on the granite. This will not cause an immediate effect, but over time it can lead to slight discoloration. It is fairly common to leave a bottle of dish soap on the counter near the faucet, which can strip the sealer and make that area vulnerable to stain.
- Don't forget, if you're not sure what to do about anything involving your granite countertops; feel free to call your granite fabricators with any questions.