# **Natural Granite Care & Cleaning**

Natural granite is an investment in your home or office that will give you many years of beautiful service. Stone is a natural product and simple care and maintenance will keep it looking beautiful.

#### **General Cleaning**

For daily maintenance of your granite countertops, mild soap/detergent and water is recommended. Care should be taken to make sure that the detergent is non-abrasive. We suggest that you use a mild liquid dishwashing detergent and water or a stone soap. Since you want to maintain granite's shiny surface, it is recommended that you do not use a lot of soap to avoid leaving a soapy film on the surface. It is always best to thoroughly rinse and dry the surface after washing.

#### **Spills and Stains**

Blot the spill with a paper towel immediately. Don't wipe the area because it will spread the spill. Flush the area with mild soap and water then rinse. Dry the area thoroughly with a soft cloth. Repeat as necessary. Your granite surface has been sealed prior to installation but may require additional sealing after install due to the porosity of the stone. Once sealed properly there should be little or no staining. However, if a stain does persist please see the section below regarding stain removal. A honed or brushed surface will stain much faster than a polished surface and must be sealed more frequently.

#### **Difficult Spot Removal**

Adhered materials like gum, nail polish, paint, etc. When necessary you may scrape adhered materials with a sharp edge (a razor blade may be used parallel to the surface). Difficult spots may be treated with acetone. Scrub and always rinse thoroughly.

#### **Stain Removal**

It is possible that spills left on the surface for an extended period of time could cause some residual staining. These stains usually dissipate over time on their own. If a stain does persist, there is a simple method to remove most stains. Combine a poultice powder with a small amount of mild liquid dish detergent to form a pasty substance. Apply the substance over the stain. Cover the stain with a clear plastic wrap, tightly sealing the edges with tape to lock in the air. After allowing this to sit for a couple of days, the poultice will draw the stain out of the stone surface. Contact us if the stain persists.

## **Proper Sealing**

Granite is sealed to prevent staining. It is recommended that the customer seal their granite countertops every six months. It is a very simple process that the customer can perform themselves. Just spray or wipe the penetrating stone sealer over the countertop, wait 4 or 5 minutes for it to dry, them wipe off any excess residue. Please contact us to find out information on where to purchase the stone sealer.

## Caution

- To protect countertop surfaces, use coasters, trivets or placemats.

- Avoid using vinegar, lemon juice or other citric juices directly on the surface of the stone.

- Avoid using cleaners that contain acids such as bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners and tub and tile cleaners.

- Avoid using abrasive cleaners such as dry cleansers or soft cleansers.
- If you have a honed or brushed material, be aware that this can stain faster than polished material.

# HALLMARK STONE

Bringing nature's beauty into your life.