

## Natural Granite Countertop Care & Maintenance

Natural granite countertops are a beautiful and durable addition to any kitchen or bathroom. To keep them looking their best, regular care and maintenance are essential. Here's a comprehensive guide to help you maintain your granite surfaces.

### Daily Cleaning

1. **Use Mild Detergent:** For everyday cleaning, use a soft cloth or sponge with warm water and a few drops of mild dish soap. Avoid acidic or abrasive cleaners, they can damage the finish.
2. **Wipe Spills:** Clean up spills promptly, especially acidic substances like lemon juice, vinegar, or wine. These can etch the surface over time.

### Weekly Maintenance

1. **Deep Cleaning:** Once a week, give your countertops a more thorough cleaning. Use a granite-safe cleaner or a mixture of water and isopropyl alcohol (1:1 ratio). Spray the solution and wipe it with a microfiber cloth.
2. **Check for Sealant:** Check if the sealant is still effective. Conduct a simple water test: sprinkle a few drops of water on the surface. If it beads up, the seal is intact; if it soaks in, it's time to reseal.

### Resealing

- **Frequency:** Most granite countertops need resealing every 1-3 years. However, high-traffic areas may require more frequent resealing.
- **Application:** Use a high-quality granite sealer. Clean the surface thoroughly before application, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for best results.

### Preventive Care

1. **Use Cutting Boards:** When chopping or slicing to prevent scratches and nicks.
2. **Avoid Hot Objects:** Always use trivets or hot pads to prevent thermal shock.

### Stain Removal

- **Oil-based Stains:** Sprinkle baking soda on the stain, cover it with plastic wrap, and leave it for 24 hours before rinsing.
- **Water-based Stains:** Use a mixture of hydrogen peroxide and a few drops of ammonia, applying it to the stain and covering it for a few hours before rinsing.
- **Ink Stains:** Apply rubbing alcohol to a cloth and gently blot the area until the stain lifts.

### Final Tips

- **Avoid Harsh Chemicals:** Stay away from bleach, ammonia, or any harsh chemicals.
- **Use Coasters:** To prevent rings, use coasters under glasses and cups.