

# Masterpieces

Design, fabrication & installation of Granite Countertops



## CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF GRANITE COUNTERTOPS

To insure your granite countertops will provide you with a lifetime of aesthetics and utility, proper maintenance is crucial. Granite is porous by nature and requires regular routine care to ensure lasting beauty and luster.

### RECOMMENDED ROUTINE CARE

**IMPORTANT: NEVER USE ABRASIVE, DRY or SOFT CLEANSERS OR SCOURING PADS TO CLEAN YOUR GRANITE COUNTERTOP. ABRASIVE PRODUCTS CAN DAMAGE THE SURFACE. IMPORTANT: GRANITE CAN STAIN IF SPILLS ARE NOT CLEANED IMMEDIATELY. DAILY MAINTENANCE**

Clean the countertop with warm water and a few drops of dishwashing detergent or antibacterial detergent using a soft cloth. Rinse the surface thoroughly with clean water and dry with a soft cloth. If you spill something on your countertop blot with a paper towel or soft cloth immediately. Do not wipe the area as this can spread the spill. Flush the spill with warm water and detergent and rinse thoroughly. Dry the area with a soft cloth. Properly sealed granite will repel most stains if the spills are cleaned promptly.

### **HEAVY-DUTY CLEANING**

When granite has been neglected, you will need to use a heavy-duty stone cleaner and degreaser to effectively remove dirt, grease, and grime. These products are concentrated and designed to deep clean without damaging the stone. It is important to follow manufacturer's instructions carefully.

### **STAINS**

If you find you have a stain that is not easily removed by following the above directions for spills, a "poultice" can be used to pull the stain from the stone. Stone poultice is a fine, non-acidic, absorptive clay cleaning powder that removes deep set oil stains, grease and light cementations grout haze from polished and unpolished natural stone. Poultice may dull the shine of the polished stone. If this occurs you will need to use a marble polish to restore the natural shine.

### **SEALERS**

**Masterpieces places a sealer on all countertops prior to installation.** You can re-seal the countertop as often as every six months up to once every two years depending on how often you use the countertop. Masterpieces recommends sealing the countertop once a year. **Applying granite sealers. Please refer to specific manufacturers instructions.** Clean the surface thoroughly - remove any stains - allow the stone to several hours - pour the sealer on the surface. Spread the sealer over the countertop with a paper towel, foam brush or rag - allow the sealer to penetrate 5-10 minutes - (if the sealer is completely absorbed in 5 minutes add more) -after 5-10 minutes blot any remaining sealer - buff the stone dry with a clean terry cloth and let dry for 12 hours before use -make sure your work area is well ventilated.

### **ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Keep your stone surface clean.
  - Hot cooking pots will not damage the surface, however extreme temperature changes may harm your stone. Avoid leaving hot pans sitting on the counter for long periods of time, especially during the winter.
  - Do not stand on your countertops.
  - Use trivets or mats under ceramic objects that can scratch the surface.
  - While granite is highly scratch-resistant, we recommend you *do not* cut on it directly. Use a cutting board.
- The Marble Institute of America offers a brochure that includes information on treating spills and stains of natural stone surfaces. One free copy is available by sending a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope to:

**5112-B Sunnyside Ave.,  
Beltsville MD 20705  
Phone: 301-441-3500  
Fax: 301-441-8866**

visit their website [www.marble-institute.com](http://www.marble-institute.com)