

# CARE AND MAINTENANCE

## WHAT CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF THE STONE PRODUCTS ARE RECOMMENDED?

Stone surfaces are very easy to maintain. Clean stone floors with warm water and a mild liquid soap. Never use acid cleansers or abrasive chemicals on stone. Natural stone should be sealed after installation and every one to two years thereafter, depending on its application.

## WHAT IS AN IMPREGNATOR SEALER? HOW DOES IT HELP STONE?

Impregnator sealer consists of microscopic balls of silicone that attach themselves to crevices inside the stone. These balls become a permanent part of the stone, and act as a waterproof shield.

## HOW OFTEN DO I NEED TO APPLY PENETRATING SEALER TO MY NATURAL STONE SURFACES?

There is no set rule on how often to seal your natural stone. Sealing can be as frequent as six months for higher traffic areas on marble, slate, travertine, and limestone or every couple of years for granite countertops. Also some sealers provide for only a single application every ten years. Please review the guidelines for each individual sealer.

## WHY DOES GRANITE NEED TO BE SEALED?

All natural stone including marble and granite, must be properly sealed to protect against staining. Without proper and regular sealing, granite and other natural stones are porous and can absorb spilled substances and leave unsightly stains and marks.

## WHAT CAN I USE TO SEAL NATURAL STONE AND TILE AND WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

A sealer that penetrates and protects natural stone and tile can be purchased at any home improvement or hardware store.

## HOW DO I REMOVE RING MARKS AND OTHER STAINS FROM GRANITE AND OTHER NATURAL STONE SURFACES?

If your granite tiles or countertops have a stain, consult a restoration professional. A Poultice kit is another stain removal option, this product can be found at most home improvement stores.

## WHAT CAN I USE TO CLEAN GRANITE TILES AND SLABS?

Neutral cleaners are needed to clean natural stone tiles. Acidic or alkaline cleaners should be avoided as they can open the pores of the natural stone and change the color of the surface.