

# ASCH

## **Countertop Surface Care & Maintenance**

Maintaining your new stone countertop is easy. In most cases, a soap and water or a mild detergent is all that is required to maintain its luster. If necessary, a non-abrasive cleanser such as Soft Scrub Liquid Gel with Bleach can be used along with a non-scratch or delicate scrub pad such as a Scotch-Brite® sponge and wipe the surface, rinsing thoroughly after cleaning. Surface should be dried with a clean white paper towel or white cloth.

Materials that harden as they dry, such as gum, grease, nail polish or paint should be removed by gently scraping away the residue material with a blunt plastic scraper. Then the surface should be cleaned using a cleaner with a household vinegar/water solution (always follow the manufacturer's dilution instructions) or with a non-abrasive cleaning pad (such as a Scotch-Brite®) together with Soft Scrub Liquid Gel with Bleach and rinse thoroughly with clean water.

## **Resistance to Stains & Chemicals**

Quartz and most granite countertops are non-porous, so spills and stains are not easily absorbed into the surface, making it stain-resistant. Permanent markers/inks and some chemicals, solvents (e.g. acetone, paint thinner, nail polish remover) or dyes may, however, cause permanent discoloration to the surface and should be avoided. Should these agents come into contact with the surface, wipe up immediately and rinse with plenty of water.

Marble and other softer natural stone countertops are by nature more porous and can easily etch, scratch, and stain. No standard stone sealant application provided by ASCH will create a non-porous surface.

All natural stone tops (ex. granite, marble, quartzite, onyx) will have a standard water-based sealant applied to each finished surface prior to packaging. We recommend an impregnating silicone sealer to be reapplied every 3 to 6 months depending on use. If the sink or tabletop is used heavily (every day) the sealer should be applied every 3 months or earlier. If the vanity or countertop is only used a few times per week the sealer can be applied every 6 months or earlier. A key indicator that a sealer is required is when the water no longer beads on the surface of the stone.

Honed finishes will require additional daily maintenance compared to the standard polished finish due to the exposed surface area. Our standard water-based sealant will still be applied, however, with honed finishes, metal marks, fingerprints and other signs of daily living will be more apparent on honed material. Most of these marks can be easily removed with little effort using a non-abrasive cleaning product such as Soft Scrub Liquid Gel. For tough stains, work the area with a Scotch-Brite® pad.

---- **DO NOT** apply any sealers, penetrants, or topical treatments to quartz surfaces under any circumstances. Such products will wear off and cause the gloss to appear dull or inconsistent.

---- **DO NOT** expose any countertop surface material to harsh chemicals! These include, but are not limited to the following: alcohol, chlorine (bleach), oven cleaners, Comet®, abrasive Soft Scrub® products, SOS®, products with pumice, batteries, paint removers, acetone, nail polish remover, furniture strippers, oils, tarnish, silver cleaners, or the like.

---- **DO NOT** use abrasive or harsh scrub pads.