

CARE & CLEANING
of STONE *Surfaces*



Artelye 
Marble & Granite

TYPES & CHARACTERISTICS OF STONE SURFACES



The stone you have purchased for your home or office is an investment that will give you many years of beautiful service. Simple care and maintenance will help to preserve its beauty for generations to come. There are many choices of material to use. Below are some general characteristics of the most common surfaces used for residential countertops.

Granites and marbles are quarried throughout the world in a variety of colors with varying mineral compositions. In most cases, granites and marbles can be identified by visible particles at the surface of the stone. Marble will normally show “veins” in high concentrations. The minerals in granite will typically appear as small flecks distributed uniformly throughout the stone. Each type of stone is unique and will vary in color, texture and marking. Granite is more dense than marble and, as a result, is much more scratch resistant than marble. Marble is not recommended for high traffic, high use surfaces for this reason.

→ Pits In Granite

It is not uncommon to see some small pits on the surface of granite slabs. This is a part of the natural beauty of stone. Pits are formed naturally and appear during the polishing process when some of the weaker components of granite, like biotite, flake off from the surface. The pits themselves do not make the granite less durable or inferior for use in countertops. The look and feel of the granite with the pits may delight some clients, or bother others. It is better if you discuss these characteristics with the fabricators before you make the final decision on your stone selection. We do not recommend that you have the pits filled because no compound can adequately or permanently fill these spaces without visually affecting the surface of the stone.

→ Fissures & Cracks in Granite

The more exotic the stone the more likely it will have fissures. Fissures are very common. They are tiny edges formed by the composition of minerals that may appear on the surface, not cracks. You will be able to feel them when you run your finger over them and it will feel like a small ridge. Cracks are not solid like fissures, because they have an opening that debris can fall into. Fissures are not noticed as much when the slab is vertical and you are viewing the slab to select your stone. Most people look at the whole slab design and overall look. Fissures are more easily noticed after the material is installed and is horizontal. When you are looking at the reflection, every natural characteristic of the stone is easy to see. For most people, this adds to the beauty of the stone and helps make your house unique.



CARE & MAINTENANCE

Natural Stone

Natural stone surfaces are a lasting investment in the beauty of your home.



How should I clean my natural stone surface?

For everyday cleaning, mild dish soap and water should be sufficient. There are also cleaners available at your local home improvement stores.

To avoid water streaks, wipe counters dry after cleaning. Windex or similar products can be used to clean up excess oil but are not recommended for daily use due to the acidic levels in the product. These types of cleaners also contain dyes and should not be left on the counters for an extended period of time.

Quartzite is a natural quartz material that is quarried like granite and marble. It has a very hard surface and is resistant to scratches and damage. Many types of quartzite are translucent and can be backlit for dramatic effect.

Quartz slabs are manmade and are manufactured using crushed quartz and resin. The benefit of quartz is that the pattern of colors tends to be very consistent within a vast array of colors being produced. Recently, manufacturers started producing marble-like quartz and other designer surfaces which offer great design possibilities.

Sandstones vary widely in color due to different minerals and clays found in the stone. Sandstone is light gray to yellow or red. A dark reddish-brown sandstone, also called brownstone, has commonly been used in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada. Bluestone is a dense, hard, fine-grained sandstone of greenish-gray or blueish-gray color and is quarried in the eastern United States.

Limestone is a widely used building stone with colors typically being light gray, tan or buff. A distinguishing characteristic of limestone is the presence of fossils, which are frequently visible in the stone surface.

Travertine is a type of limestone that can be left in its natural state with no polishing. Limestone varies in hardness and is porous with many visible holes often filled with epoxy. Travertine is one of several natural stones that are used for paving patios and garden paths. It is sometimes known as travertine limestone or travertine marble. The stone is characterized by pitted holes and troughs in its surface. It comes in a variety of colors from grey to coral-red. Travertine is most commonly available in tile sizes for floor installations.

Slate is dark green, black, gray, dark red, or multi-colored. It is most commonly used as a flooring material and for roof tiles. Slate is often distinguished by its distinct cleft texture.



How often do I need to seal my countertops?

By its nature, granite is generally moisture resistant. It is somewhat porous. Substances like cooking oil, vinegar, and candle wax may quickly soak into the stone and stain it. Sealants block liquids from seeping into the granite. We recommend sealing your granite once a year, and more frequently for lighter colors.

➔ Avoid harsh cleansers and abrasives

Strong or acidic chemicals and abrasive materials including sponges, can damage granite. These materials can also dull and break down the sealant that was applied to your countertops. Avoid window cleaners, and cleaners with ammonia, bleach, vinegar, or citrus juices.

➔ Wipe up spills

Reduce the risk of stains from food or liquids by wiping up spills as soon as possible. The oils and dyes from these items can seep into non-sealed stone surfaces or granite surfaces with old sealants that need resealing. Please keep in mind that acidic foods left on your surface can damage or reduce the life of your sealant.

➔ Clean with mild dish soap

Use a soft washcloth, water, and a mild dish detergent for general cleaning of the granite. If it needs disinfecting, mix up a solution of 50/50 water and isopropyl alcohol and spray down the countertop with it. Allow it to sit for a few minutes and rinse off with clean water. Dry with a microfiber towel.





Resistance to Stains and Chemicals

Quartz countertops are non-porous and do not require any sealing. Spills are not absorbed into the surface, making it stain-resistant.

Permanent markers/inks, some chemicals, solvents, or dyes can 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. If the stain persists, moisten a cloth with Goo Gone® or a comparable product, and rub it onto the stain. Rinse thoroughly with warm water to remove any cleaner residue.

➔ Quartz

Countertops can be cleaned using gentle soap and water. Never use an abrasive cleanser or scrubbing pad on quartz, as they can scratch the surface.

➔ Scrape off sticky material

Use the dull edge of a plastic putty knife to scrape off and loosen stuck-on stains (i.e. old food, gum, or dried lacquer).

➔ Wet a cloth

Wet a cloth or non-scratch cleaning pad with warm water. Add a little non-abrasive, non-detergent soap to clean stubborn stains.

➔ Wipe down the counter

Wipe the counters down with the wet cloth. Use a vigorous scrubbing motion to remove stubborn stains.



CARE & MAINTENANCE

Quartz

Finished engineered stone is rich and luxurious with very low maintenance



DO NOT expose quartz surfaces to abrasive, strong alkaline, acid, free radicals, oxidizers, or the like (whether high, neutral or low pH) cleaners. Avoid exposing your tops to harsh chemicals!

DO NOT use or expose quartz surfaces to such products including, but not limited to bleach, oven cleaners, Comet®, Soft Scrub®, SOS®, products with pumice, batteries, paint removers, furniture strippers, oil soaps, tarnish or silver cleaners, or the like.

DO NOT use abrasive or harsh scrub pads.

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.



Heat Resistance

Quartz countertops ARE NOT heat proof, chemical proof or fracture proof in any form. To maintain the beauty of your quartz countertop, DO NOT place hot skillets, roasting pans, or heat generating appliances directly onto the surface. We recommend the use of trivets and hot pads to prevent heating the top. Certain exposure to heat may cause cracks due to thermal shock.

Cuts or Scratches

Quartz is one of the hardest materials in nature. That is why your new quartz countertop will not easily scratch or chip. We do, however, recommend the use of a cutting board to protect the surface and avoid dulling your knives.





Artelye Marble & Granite has been a leading supplier of granite and quartz countertops for over 25 years. We supply granite to the residential, commercial and builder markets with an excellent reputation backed by our customers and years of experience.

We serve the mid-Atlantic region including Maryland, Washington D.C., Northern Virginia, Southern Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and lower state New York.

You can get in touch with us right now by calling our main office in Beltsville, Maryland



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