

# *the* GRANITE *co.*

A VISION IN STONE

## Care & Maintenance

Congratulations on your decision to purchase the most durable, natural, and long lasting countertop material available today. Your granite will provide you with many years of use with little or not aging in its appearance as long as its properly cared for. As with any natural product, there are some simple steps to take to enhance and lengthen the life of your stone, as well as common sense approaches to understanding its limitations.

### *Daily Cleaning:*

Stone is comprised of natural minerals that may react adversely to cleaning chemicals and acids not intended for stone care use. Clean surfaces with a neutral cleaner, soap, or mild liquid dishwashing detergent and warm water. Clear Ivory Dish Soap is recommended because it is made without animal fats and free of dyes. Other brands can contain fats, dyes, and scents, which could damage the stone. Use a clean cloth for best results. Too much cleaner or soap may leave a film and cause streaks. Rinse the surface thoroughly with warm water and dry with a soft cloth. For darker stones, paper towel works well.

Do NOT clean the surface with products containing lemon, vinegar, acids, or abrasives. Windex should never be used, as the ammonia reacts differently to each stone and can cause permanent streaking. Avoid detergents that can be abrasive and contain chemicals high in acid or alkaline. These products break down your sealer and ultimately can etch the stone.

Although it is not necessary to use specialty products, exclusive cleaners and disinfectants can also be purchased. We carry a full line of Miracle Sealants products including Counter Kleen, Miracle Disinfectant, and Disinfecting Wipes. These are always safe to use on ANY natural stone.

### *Sealing:*

The most important facet of your natural stone countertop is understanding that it is a porous material. Porous simply means it can be penetrated by water, oils, grease, and chemicals. Although polished granite is relatively dense and the least porous of all materials, all natural stone should be regularly sealed. It is a simple and inexpensive way of keeping your stone beautiful.

Prior to installation, The Granite Company uses a non-toxic impregnator that resists all types of stains. Miracle Sealants 511 Impregnator is used for granite, while the Porous Plus is suggested for marble, travertine, and other more porous stones. With these sealers, your countertops should be resealed annually.

To seal your stone, simply apply the sealer on the countertop, using a spray bottle, brush, or applicator, wait no more than five minutes for it to absorb, and wipe thoroughly with a soft cloth. If left too long, the sealer will dry and a haze may appear. To remove, either apply a small amount of sealer and wipe dry, or buff with #0000 Steel Wool. In total, the process shouldn't take more than 10 minutes!

Also available, is Dry-Treat sealer, protecting your stone for 15 years. For an additional cost, The Granite Company, a Dry-Treat Accredited Applicator, will apply this 15-year sealer prior to installation. Dry-Treat's impregnating sealers are technologically different from commonly available silicone impregnators. The specially engineered molecules penetrate deeper into porous material and bond permanently inside the pores, without blocking them. Dry-Treat creates a deep barrier and stands up to cleaning chemicals, traffic, and sunlight. No special cleaners are needed, and standard, non-acidic cleaners will not harm the sealer.