



Natural Stone Care and Maintenance

The natural stone you have in your home, office, or commercial building is an investment that will give you many years of beautiful service.

Simple care and maintenance will help preserve your stone's beauty for generations to come.

There are three primary stone finishes: —

Polished has a glossy surface that reflects light and emphasizes the color and markings of the material.

Honed or **Matt** is a satin smooth surface with relatively little reflection of light.

Leathered is a rougher textured surface. It is more forgiving and has a more organic feel.

What Type of Stone Is It?

While there are exceptions, the following characteristics are common:

- Granites have a distinct crystal pattern or small flecks; very little veining. The least porous out of all the natural stones
- Slates are dark green, black, gray, dark red, or multi-colored. They are most commonly used as a flooring material and for roof tiles and are often distinguished by distinct cleft texture. Little to no porosity.
- Marbles are usually veined, fine-textured materials that come in virtually unlimited color selections. Are quite porous so need regular cleaning and resealing.
- Sandstones vary widely in color due to different minerals and clays found in the stone. Sandstone is light gray to yellow or red. Are very porous and generally not recommended for counter tops.
- Limestones are widely used as a building stone. Colors are typically gray, tan, or buff. A distinguishing characteristic of many limestones is the presence of shell and/or fossil impressions. The most porous of the natural stones there for more care and maintenance is needed compared to any other natural stone.

Please call Universal Granite and Marbles for any other enquiries 09 279 8846



Care and Precautions for Countertops:

Use coasters under all glasses, particularly those containing alcohol or citrus juices. Do not place hot items right off a stove or out of an oven directly on the stone surface. Use trivets or mats under hot dishes and placemats under china, ceramics, silver, or other objects that can scratch the surface. For calcareous stones, many common foods and drinks contain acids that will etch or dull the stone surface.

General Guidelines for Stain Removal

1. Remove any loose debris.
2. Blot spills; wiping the area will spread the spill.
3. Flush the area with plain water and mild soapy water and rinse.
4. Dry the area thoroughly with a soft cloth.
5. Repeat as necessary.
6. If the stain remains, use a PH Neutral Stone cleaner. Most supermarkets now stock these.
7. If the stain persists or for problems that appear too difficult to treat please call Universal Granite and Marble LTD 09 279 8846.

Cleaning Do's and Don'ts

When discussing care and cleaning procedures regarding your natural stone there are recommended do's and don'ts that should always be followed:

Dust mop floors frequently, this will stop sand etc. from scratching the surface.

Clean surfaces with mild soapy water or PH Neutral Stone cleaner.

Thoroughly rinse and dry the surface with clean, clear water after washing.

Blot up spills immediately.

Protect floor surfaces with non-slip mats or area rugs and countertop surfaces with coasters, trivets, or placemats.

Don't use vinegar, lemon juice, or other cleaners containing acids.

Don't use cleaners that contain acid such as bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners, or tub & tile cleaners.

Don't use abrasive cleaners such as dry cleansers or soft cleansers.

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