

How to Clean Granite Countertops

Congratulations, you've got the most beautiful & durable countertop there is!

It is time to make sure that you're going to follow a few basic guidelines for granite's proper maintenance and preservation. Maintenance of natural stone is not more difficult than any other material you're familiar with.

Knowing how to clean granite countertops is simple. Use what's known to be safe and effective. In general granite is a **very practical** surface that is second only to stainless steel in bacteria resistance.

The **two most important** things that you can do to care for granite countertops, or any natural stone surface are: 1. Remove any dust, grit, and sand from the stone's surface. 2. Clean up accidental spills as soon as possible.

How do you clean granite countertops? Soap and water do work as it is a safe, convenient, and inexpensive way to clean your countertops. **BUT**, soap and water can eventually lead to a soap build up. A soap build up will dull your countertops and leave a film on top. Ivory soap works the best. Ivory doesn't contain animal fats. Also, soap and water won't bring out the luster and shine in your stone like a **granite cleaner** will. With the darker stones, you may have to dry them or buff them with a soft cloth to remove any streaks. We stock professional stone care products from StoneTech® as well as a 3-in-1 cleaner. StoneTech® granite cleaners are **simple and safe** to use on a day to day basis. StoneTech® Revitalizer is a product that can be used on a daily basis to clean your counter, or once a week to remove any soap buildup and bring out the luster and beauty of your granite. It also has sealer in it to reinforce the protection on your investment each time you clean. It comes in a spray bottle or in handy pop-up wipes for a quick clean up. Our 3-in-1 product comes in an aerosol can and may be used on multiple surfaces. It is safe to use on a regular basis and will leave your surfaces looking refreshed and spot-free if used as directed.

Use only cleaning products that are safe for natural stone and quartz products. Cleaning products such as Lysol, 409, and Windex are not the answer. These products can contain harsh chemicals which can cause damage to your stone. Products containing ammonia can dull the shine and break down the sealer on granite quicker. The harsher the cleaning product, the quicker the sealer breaks down, and the sooner it will need to be reapplied.

The DON'TS of Natural Stone Care

- ❑ DON'T use vinegar, lemon juice, or other cleaners containing acids on your stone.
- ❑ 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 (Bar Keepers Friend is a good alternative).
- ❑ DON'T mix bleach and ammonia; this combination creates a toxic and lethal gas.
- ❑ DON'T ever mix chemicals together unless directions specifically instruct you to do so.
- ❑ **AND, always call Elegant Creations for problems that appear too difficult to treat yourself.**