# CARE & MAINTENANCE

#### **Counter Tops**

#### **CERAMIC TOPS**

**Daily Habits:** After your morning beauty routine, take a few minutes to make sure everything goes back in its designated space—toothbrush in a cup, makeup back in the drawers, and hair tools hidden behind cabinets. A clear countertop makes it easier to wipe down the surface every day before you leave. This small but meaningful addition to your daily routine will make a big difference to the look of your bathroom.

**Wipe Down:** It's easy to get pulled into the many aisles of cleaning supplies at grocery stores. With the colorful options and promising claims to clean your bathroom best, it seems like a no-brainer. But, you can save a good deal of money by making your own cleaning agent with items you already have at home. Sure, it won't come in the same bright packaging, but it will work all the same. To make it, mix vinegar and water in a spray bottle. Spritz it on the counter and wipe down. It will keep the surface clean and shiny.

**Regular Maintenance:** First, wipe off the countertop with a commercially prepared tile cleaner, or make your own cleaner by combining 1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup baking soda, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup liquid soap, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup water, 2 tablespoons of vinegar. This will remove the day-to-day dirt.

#### **GENUINE STONE TOPS**

Clean stone surfaces with a neutral cleaner, stone soap, or a mild liquid dishwashing detergent and warm water. Home cleansers can leave a residue on natural stone, and should always be rinsed well and dried to keep from having water spots. Frequent or over-use of an ammonia solution may eventually dull the surface of some stone types. Any abrasive or acidic cleaners should be avoided.

There are natural stone cleansers, sealers, polishes and protectants available on the market that are specifically for use on stone floors or countertops and can be found in any local hardware store. Many flooring companies offer steam services for natural stone areas as well.

Use a clean soft cloth on top surfaces and a clean rag mop on floors. In any case, when cleaning stone, it is always best to sweep or vacuum the area free of any dirt and debris before beginning. Any leftover debris can scratch the area when cleaning or drying.

Rinse the surface thoroughly after washing with the soap solution and dry with a soft microfiber cloth. Change the rinse water frequently when cleaning.

Our stone tops are sealed & polished once manufactured. We recommend you seal & polish after installation and every 6 months to 1-year afterwards depending on use.

Water will seep into the stone and leave a permanent ring to remind you where the water was. This is caused by a permanent change in the marble's composition and can only be removed by professional polishing. You'll need to select a cleaning solution that is made specifically for cleaning marble. Most regular household cleaners contain acid, which can damage the finish. Cleaners with citric acid must be avoided. Neutral cleaners, such as phosphate-free solutions or dishwashing liquids, will work in a pinch. The trick to using any cleaning agent on your countertop is to rinse the soap off immediately with warm water to avoid drying out the marble.

### ENGINEERED QUARTZ TOPS

Engineered Quartz has been known as the material that is highly resistant to stains. That is due to its non-porous surface, which prevents liquids and spills from leaving a stain. However, when quartz is exposed to hard water, if that water is not wiped off, it can leave mineral deposits. We recommend to seal the surface every 3-6 months depends on usage. Here, we are bringing the 5 tips on how to remove water stains from your quartz countertops.

# **1. USE STEEL WOOD**

If you have a mineral buildup from hard water, use steel wool to remove it. Use light handed circular motions for the whole countertops, even if they don't have visible stains. Follow up with using a dry cloth to wipe off the loosened buildup.

#### 2. BAKING SODA

Another way to remove water stains is to mix the baking soda and water. Pour a bit of this home-made cleaner on the stain, then rub it in with kitchen sponge with circular motions. This method will help to remove stains from glasses and cooking.

# **3. USE PLASTIC WRAP**

If the first two methods do not remove the stain, you can try this trick. Pour a bit of the baking soda-water mixture on the stain. Cover it with a plastic wrap and let it sit for a few hours. This will create the heat that will pull out the stain out of your quartz countertops.

# 4. USE A SPECIALIZED CLEANER

There are also quartz cleaning kits on the markets that are exactly created to remove the stains from hard water. They can be effective if none of the above methods helps.

# 5. WIPE THE SPILLS AND GLASS RINGS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY

Distilled water will not leave a stain, because what leaves stain or quartz are actually minerals that water contain. If you want to prevent water stains, you can use distilled water when doing the routine cleaning. Another way to prevent the water stains is to wipe off the spills and glass rings with a dry cloth after each use.

Following these simple steps for removing the water stains will make your quartz countertops even more shiny and beautiful. Quartz is highly resistant to stains, but it is not stain-proof; the key to leaving your quartz countertops clean and without stains is to remove the spills as quickly as possible. If not, these tricks can help you to bring back its beauty.