



15030 County Road 75 NW  
Monticello, MN 55362  
P) 763-878-2212 F) 763-878-2221  
[www.summitstoneinteriors.com](http://www.summitstoneinteriors.com)

## Caring for your **Granite** Countertops

Page 1 of 2

---

### **Granite**

Whether polished or honed, Granite provides one of the most beautiful and durable countertop surfaces available. Granite offers a wider variety of colors and patterns to choose from over any manmade solid surface line. Granite is not affected by normal household cooking temperatures so hot pans can be placed directly on the countertops but not recommend. Although polished Granite will not scratch when used as a cutting surface, we recommend using a cutting board to prevent potential staining and the dulling of your knives. Granite can be refinished and, in cases of chipping or breaking, can be repaired with colored epoxies that will take a polish. Granite is very easy to care for and, by following a simple maintenance schedule, will look just as beautiful in twenty years as the day it was installed.

### **Cleaning**

This is for granite. Marble, limestone, and soapstone are more sensitive. Warm water only and drying afterwards is the simplest and least harmful. Clean the countertop daily with a soft cloth and a neutral cleaner or household detergent such as Dawn. Household cleaning products including Windex (without ammonia), Lysol Disinfectant and 409 can be used, but may leave a film. A solution of vinegar and water is great to remove streaking, smudges, and body oil.

Granite countertops are generally sealed at the time of fabrication. Resealing is up to the individual. Manufacturers of impregnators recommend counter tops to be resealed every year. Granite impregnators, cleaners, and disinfectants are available from our office or can be ordered on line at [stoneholding.com](http://stoneholding.com).

Spills should be wiped up immediately. Blot the spill with a clean paper towel. If the countertop stains, a poultice may need to be applied. See the Stain Removal guidelines that follow.

Use the flat side of a razor blade for removing stuck on tape residue, dried paint, glue, dried food, etc. Use #0000 or finer steel wool to remove dried water spots, smudges, hazy areas, and for general cleaning to bring out the shine. Do not use the steel wool wet. Use a pencil eraser to remove aluminum trails.

## Caring for your **Granite** Countertops (Continued) Page 2 of 2

### **Do's**

Do use coasters under glasses, especially beverages containing acid or alcohol.

Do wipe up spills immediately.

Do consult Summit Stone Interiors about any maintenance concerns.

Do re-seal your granite once every year (every 6 months is recommended for honed granite)

### **Don'ts**

Do not use acid-based cleaners such as rust removers, sterling silver cleaners, etc., on the countertop, or leave rags saturated with acid based cleaners on the countertop.

Do not use any cleaners containing Hydrofluoric Acid.

Do not use any strong abrasive cleaners such as Comet or Soft Scrub.

Do not leave spills on countertop for prolonged periods of time.

Do not slide porcelain plates across. They may scratch.

### **Stain Removal**

If you stained your stone, don't worry. Because stone is porous you can sometimes remove the stain by reversing the staining process. Stains should be treated as soon as possible. As time goes by it becomes increasingly difficult to remove the stain; however, attempts to remove stains should not precede stain identification. Using the appropriate removal technique is important to achieve the desired results. You must ask questions to determine what the stain is:

What is the color?

Where is it located?

How long has it been there?

Is it associated with main traffic areas?

Are plants near the stain? Etc...

Once the stain has been identified, the best method of removal can be determined. If you re-absorb the stain into a medium, you can remove it from the stone. The typical medium is called a poultice. Miracle Sealant's Poultice Plus Powder is available from our office or at [stoneholding.com](http://stoneholding.com). Always follow product manufacture's directions.

### **Please Note:**

Some chemicals necessary for stain removal will remove the finish on polished marble, limestone, terrazzo and travertine. As a result, repolishing with abrasives or polishing compounds may be necessary.

**Disclaimer:** This is for granite only! Other softer stones require different care.