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## Caring for your **Limestone & Travertine** Countertops Page 1 of 2

### **Limestone & Travertine**

Limestone and Travertine provides one of the most beautiful countertop surfaces available. Limestone and Travertine offer a wider variety of colors and patterns to choose from over any manmade solid surface line. We recommend using a cutting board to prevent potential scratching and staining. Limestone and Travertine can be refinished and, in cases of chipping or breaking, can be repaired. Limestone and Travertine is very easy to care for and, by following a simple maintenance schedule, it will look just as beautiful in twenty years as the day it was installed.

### **Cleaning**

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. A solution of vinegar and water is great to remove streaking, smudges, and body oil.

Limestone and Travertine 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 1 to 4 years, depending on the application, the sensitivity of the individual, and the type of stone. Limestone and Travertine 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.

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## **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 reseal your Limestone and Travertine once every 6 months

## **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 items across your countertops as it 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 honed stone. As a result, re honing with abrasives or polishing compounds may be necessary.

