

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CARE OF MARBLE COUNTERTOPS



MARBLE is a delicate material, softer than many other natural stones. Polished marble surfaces should be given the same consideration as a fine wood finish. Any material that is harder than the stone (e.g. sand, steel cutlery, diamonds, gemstones, abrasive cleansers) will scratch the surface. Spills should be wiped up immediately and rinsed with water. Coasters should be placed under glasses, especially those containing liquor or citrus juices. Hot plates should be used under heated dishes and pans.

**CLEANING:** Marble is generally easy to care for. Any cleaner specially designed for natural marble, applied with a soft cloth would be the preferred choice for cleaning your marble. Otherwise, non-soap cleansers should be used to minimize streaking and filming. Clear glass and surface cleaners are an acceptable choice for cleaning your marble. For heavier cleaning on honed surfaces, soft cream cleansers (such as SoftScrub) are appropriate when applied with overlapping, swirling strokes and rinsed with clean water. Avoid the use of powder or soft cream cleansers on polished surfaces. Also, avoid the use of cleaners with added phosphorous or bleach and products (such as Scotch-Brite pads).

**SEALING:** Marble is softer than many other natural stones and so we strongly recommend sealing with an impregnating sealer to help eliminate the occurrence of stains. If purchased through Rumford Stone, we will seal your polished or honed marble surfaces upon installation.

**RE-SEALING:** It is strongly recommended that a re-application of the impregnating sealers is done every 3-6 months, although you may wish to seal heavily used areas more often. Rumford Stone carries a full line of impregnating sealers at our showrooms.

**STAINS:** If counters are properly sealed two or three times a year, they should resist stains. Some materials such as rust, oil, ink, coffee or cosmetics may cause a stain if allowed prolonged contact with an unsealed surface. Most stains will dissipate over time, but can be avoided by keeping the stone's surface clean and using coasters under cooking oils or other liquids stored on the countertop.

**ETCHING:** Some materials may etch the surface of the stone, especially those containing acids or minerals (such as citrus juices and vinegar). This can be avoided by keeping the stone's surface clean.

**CAULKING:** When your countertop is installed by Rumford Stone, we will caulk all transitions where stone meets stone or stone meets wood. However, because there are so many backsplash-finishing materials available, we do not caulk areas where the stone meets the wall. If you wish to caulk this area we recommend using a quality, paintable caulking material, tested first on an inconspicuous area of stone.