

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CARE OF SOAPSTONE



SOAPSTONE is a durable material, although softer than many other natural stone surfaces. Any material that is harder than the stone (e.g. sand, steel cutlery, diamonds/gemstones, abrasive cleansers) will scratch the surface. The finish will not wear or fade, although it will darken over time as it ages with your home. In kitchen use, hot dishes and pans from the oven or stove will not damage a soapstone countertop.

INITIAL CARE & OILING YOUR SOAPSTONE: Soapstone surfaces should be sealed with mineral oil to protect the surface and ensure that they darken evenly. Several coats of mineral oil are necessary for complete oil saturation. We will apply an initial coat of mineral oil to your soapstone surface. You should repeat the oil application every two to three days following the initial application. Apply a coat of mineral oil to the surface and allow it to sit for a minimum of 4 hours (preferably overnight), and then remove excess with a clean, soft cloth. This process should be repeated until a total of 3 or 4 coats have been applied.

INITIAL CARE AND CAULKING: We will caulk all transitions where soapstone meets soapstone or soapstone meets wood. However, because there are so many backsplash-finishing materials available, we do not caulk areas where the soapstone 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 the stone.

CLEANING: Soapstone is very easy to care for. Any cleaner specially designed for natural stone, applied with a soft cloth, is the preferred choice for cleaning your soapstone. Rumford Stone carries a full line of disinfectant & cleaning products specially formulated for stone surfaces at our showrooms. Otherwise, non-soap cleansers should be used to minimize streaking and filming. Clear glass and surface cleaners are an acceptable choice for cleaning your soapstone. For heavier cleaning, soft cream cleansers (e.g. SoftScrub®) are appropriate when applied with overlapping, swirling strokes and rinsed with clean water. Avoid the use of cleaners with added phosphorus or bleach and products such as Scotchbrite® pads.

OIL RE-APPLICATION: We recommend re-applying mineral oil to your soapstone surfaces every 6 months, or as needed, to seal and protect the surface.

STAINS: Soapstone surfaces are pre-stained, so they should repel stains from other materials. Some materials such as rust, oil, ink, coffee or cosmetics may cause a stain if allowed prolonged contact with the 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: Rarely, some materials may etch the surface of the stone, especially those containing acids (e.g. citrus juices, vinegar). This can be avoided by keeping the stone's surface clean.