

ABOUT SOAPSTONE



CHARACTER

Durable. Heat and Stain Resistant. Needs Regular Care.

Soapstone has a very soft surface yet is durable, and will bring a lifetime of beauty to your home.

In the kitchen - Hot dishes and pans from the oven or stove will not damage a soapstone countertop. Any material that is harder than the stone (e.g. sand, steel cutlery, diamonds/gemstones, abrasive cleansers) will scratch the surface. These surface scratches can easily be buffed out with a fine grit sandpaper.

PROTECTION

Initial - Soapstone should be sealed with mineral oil or wax to protect the surface and ensure even darkening. Several coats of mineral oil/wax are necessary for complete saturation. We will apply an initial coat of mineral oil/wax to your soapstone. You should repeat application every two to three days until desired results. Apply a coat of mineral oil/wax 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.

Regular - We recommend re-applying mineral oil or wax to your soapstone surfaces every 6 months, or as needed, to seal and protect the surface. Rumford Stone carries soapstone care products at our showroom.

DAILY CARE

Cleaners - Cleaners designed for natural stone, applied with a soft cloth are recommended. Clear glass and surface cleaners are an acceptable choice for cleaning your soapstone. Non-soap cleansers should be used to minimize streaking and filming. Rumford Stone carries a full line of disinfectant & cleaning products specially formulated for stone surfaces at our showroom.

Heavy Cleaning - Soft cream cleansers (e.g. SoftScrub®) are appropriate when applied with overlapping, swirling strokes and rinsed with clean water.

Avoid - Cleaners with added phosphorous or bleach and products such as Scotchbrite® pads.

BE AWARE

Stains - If left untreated, oils can darken the surface of Soapstone. It is best to treat Soapstone with oil/wax to keep an even darkened appearance.

Etching - Rarely, some materials, especially those containing acids (e.g. citrus juices, vinegar), may etch the surface of the stone. This can be avoided by keeping the stone's surface clean.

NOTE:

Caulking - When your countertop is installed, 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.