



## Natural Stone Countertops

### *Care & Maintenance*

**Granite** is a Siliceous stone composed primarily of quartz-like particles and silica. This natural material is coarse grained and very durable. It forms from slowly cooling magma that is subjected to extreme pressures deep beneath the earth's surface. Granites vary in mineral composition affecting color, pattern and other aspects of appearance.

**Marble** is a Calcareous stone composed of calcite and calcium carbonate. This soft, porous and fine-textured material is very delicate and sensitive to acids (e.g., fruit juice, alcohol, cleaning products.) Acid reacts with calcium carbonate and literally eats away a tiny bit of the surface, creating "etches" or dull spots. Marble is also susceptible to stains, scratches and over time, patina.

To keep your natural stone (granite or marble) countertop beautiful, follow the care and maintenance instructions below:

### Cleaning:

- ➔ Clean surface with water and a few drops of mild liquid dishwashing detergent or stone soap (available for purchase from Wellman General Contracting)
- ➔ Thoroughly rinse the surface with clean water after washing
- ➔ Dry the area thoroughly with a soft, clean cloth
- ➔ Using too much cleaner or soap could leave a film and/or streaks
- ➔ Don't use cleaners that contain acid such as bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners, or tub & tile cleaners
- ➔ Don't use vinegar, lemon juice, or other cleaners containing acids on marble surfaces
- ➔ Avoid using abrasive cleaners, scouring pads, powders, bleach, and ammonia



### ◆ Care & Precautions ◆

**Protect your stone countertop by using coasters under all glasses, trivets or mats under hot dishes and placemats under china, ceramics, or other objects that could scratch the surface.**

### Stains:

1.) Blot spills with a paper towel immediately

\*(Do not wipe – wiping the area will spread the spill)

2.) Flush the area with clean water and a mild soap or detergent

3.) Rinse several times

4.) Dry the area thoroughly with a clean, soft cloth

5.) Repeat as necessary

If steps 1 – 5 do not remove the stain entirely you can use a stain-removing poultice for the deep, stubborn stains.

A poultice is a cleaner or chemical mixed with an absorbent powder to form a paste-like material (similar to the consistency of peanut butter.)

- ❖ Spread the poultice over the stained area with a wooden or plastic spatula to a thickness of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
- ❖ Cover the area with plastic and taped around the edges to hold it in place for about 24 hours.
- ❖ Remove the plastic and allow the poultice to dry thoroughly for another 24 hours.
- ❖ To remove the poultice, rinse with distilled water and buff dry with a clean, soft cloth. A wooden or plastic scraper may be used if necessary.
- ❖ Repeat the process if the stain is not removed. Difficult stains may take up to five or more applications.