



Preserving Your Investment

Care & Maintenance of Stone Surfaces



MARBLE AND GRANITE FABRICATOR



***Thank you* for choosing Cumar Inc.
as your stone fabricator!**

The stone you have selected for your project is an investment that will give you many years of beautiful service. Care and maintenance will help preserve your stone's beauty for years to come.

This brochure has been developed based on guidelines set forth by the Marble Institute of America (MIA) to offer routine cleaning guidelines as well as procedures for basic stain removal should it become necessary.

If you have additional questions or encounter an issue that appears too difficult to treat, please feel free to call our Care & Maintenance Division at 617-389-7818 or send an email to service@cumar.com.

Know Your Stone

Stone can be classified into three general categories according to its composition: siliceous stone, calcareous stone, or engineered stone. Knowing the difference is critical when selecting cleaning products.

SILICEOUS natural stone is composed mainly of silica or quartz-like particles. It tends to be very durable and relatively easy to clean with mild acidic cleaning solutions. **Types of siliceous stone include granite, slate, sandstone and quartzite.** These materials should be sealed every 6 to 12 months.

CALCAREOUS natural stone is composed mainly of calcium carbonate and will react to acidic foods such as lemons or tomatoes. This reaction will result in a dulling in surface sheen and change in texture, otherwise referred to as "acid etching." Cleaning products that work on siliceous stone may damage the surface of calcareous surfaces. **Types of calcareous stone include marble, travertine, limestone and onyx.** These materials should be sealed every 3 to 6 months.

ENGINEERED stone is composed mainly of crushed stone bound together by an adhesive. Manufacturers of this man-made stone boast about the tough, non-porous, chemically resistant, and high performing qualities of the product. These material do not need to be sealed.

If you are unsure as to which category your stone falls under, talk to your Cumar Stone Specialist.



Our care & maintenance division is well-equipped to assist you with all of your stone needs, including:

- Annual Clean & Seal
- Chip Repairs
- Stain Removal
- Seam Repair
- and so much more!

General Cleaning Procedures & Recommendations

NATURAL STONE

For everyday cleaning, use a soft cloth with warm water and a mild liquid dishwashing detergent to clean your natural stone.

If a spill occurs, immediately blot the spill with a paper towel. Do not wipe the area, as this can spread the spill. Flush the area with plain water and a mild liquid dishwashing detergent. Rinse several times until the spill has been cleared and removed. Change the rinse water frequently and do not use too much soap or it may leave a film and cause streaks. Dry the area thoroughly with a clean soft cloth. Do not use products that contain lemon, vinegar, or other acids. Do not use scouring powders or creams; these products contain abrasives that may scratch the surface.

We recommend a thorough cleaning of your surface on a regular basis (because of the patina that will develop on the surface from day-to-day use) to keep the surface as beautiful as the day it was installed.

ENGINEERED STONE

Due to quartz's high density and non-porous qualities, normal cleaning with a damp cloth and mild detergent is all you need to keep your engineered surface looking great.

Thoroughly rinse off the soap/mild detergent with hot water after use and dry with soft cloth or paper towel. To avoid dulling the surface shine, make sure to use a non-abrasive cleaner, and thoroughly rinse off with water after use. Those wishing to use environmentally safe cleaners may also use a combination of 50/50 vinegar & water, rinsing afterwards.

If a spill occurs, apply a generous amount of a non-abrasive gel, such as Soft Scrub Liquid Gel with Bleach, to a damp soft cloth or paper towel (not directly on to the surface). Wipe the area using a circular motion, rinsing thoroughly with water and dry with soft cloth or paper towel.

>> Refer to the manufacturer's website for further information.



Making and Using a Poultice on Natural Stone

For those brave enough to attempt to remove a stain on their own, the best and only way to approach it is to create a poultice. The poultice will act almost as a sponge to lift the stain and, with any luck, remove it completely.

A poultice is a liquid cleaner or chemical mixed with a white absorbent material to form a paste about the consistency of peanut butter. The poultice is spread over the stained area to a thickness of about $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " with a wood or plastic spatula, covered with plastic and left to work for 24 to 48 hours. The liquid cleaner or chemical will draw out the stain into the absorbent material. Poultice procedures may have to be repeated to thoroughly remove a stain, but some stains may never be completely removed.

POULTICE MATERIALS

Powdered poultice materials include kaolin, fuller's earth, whiting diatomaceous earth, powdered chalk, white molding plaster or talc. Approximately one pound of prepared poultice material will cover one square foot. Do not use whiting or iron-type clays such as fuller's earth with acid chemicals. The reaction will cancel the effect of the poultice. A poultice can also be prepared using white cotton balls, white paper towels, or gauze pads.

Oil-Based Stains (grease, cooking oil, milk, cosmetics): Poultice with baking soda and water OR one of the powdered poultice materials and mineral spirits.

Organic Stains (coffee, tea, fruit, paper, food, urine): Poultice with one of the powdered poultice materials and 12% hydrogen peroxide solution (hair bleaching strength) OR use acetone instead of the hydrogen peroxide.

Iron Stains: Poultice with diatomaceous earth and a commercially available rust remover. Rust stains are particularly difficult to remove. It is best to contact our Care & Maintenance Department to set up an appointment.

Copper Stains: Poultice with one of the powdered poultice materials and ammonia. These stains are difficult to remove. It is best to contact our Care & Maintenance Department to set up an appointment.

Biological Stains (algae, mildew): Poultice with dilute ammonia OR bleach OR hydrogen peroxide.

DO NOT MIX AMMONIA AND BLEACH! THIS COMBINATION CREATES A TOXIC AND LETHAL GAS!

Applying the Poultice

1. Prepare the poultice by mixing baking soda with water to form a thick paste about the consistency of peanut butter. If using paper, soak in the chemical and let drain. Don't let the liquid drip.
2. Wet the stained area with distilled water.
3. Apply the poultice to the stained area about ¼" to ½" thick and extend the poultice beyond the stained area by about one inch. Use a wood or plastic scraper to spread the poultice evenly.
4. Cover the poultice with plastic and tape the edges to seal it.
5. Allow the poultice to dry thoroughly, usually about 24 to 48 hours. The drying process is what pulls the stain out of the stone and into the poultice material. After about 24 hours, remove the plastic and allow the poultice to dry.
6. Remove the poultice from the stain. Rinse with distilled water and buff dry with a soft cloth. Use the wood or plastic scraper if necessary.



Do's and Don'ts of Stone

DO use a cutting board in all kitchen countertop applications.

DO use coasters or placemats under all glasses, particularly those containing alcohol or citric juices.

DO use trivets under china, ceramics, silver or other objects that might scratch or scorch the surface.

DO protect flooring applications by using walk-off mats or area rugs.

DO dust mop floors frequently.

DO clean surfaces with mild detergent or stone soap.

DO thoroughly rinse and dry the surface after washing.

DO blot up spills immediately.



DON'T place hot items directly on the stone surface.

DON'T use vinegar, lemon juice or cleaners containing acids on marble, onyx, limestone or travertine surfaces.

DON'T use cleaners that contain acid such as bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners or tub and tile cleaners.

DON'T use abrasive cleaners such as dry cleansers or soft cleansers.

DON'T mix bleach and ammonia; this combination creates a toxic and lethal gas.

DON'T ever mix chemicals together unless directions specifically instruct you to do so.





About CUMAR, Inc.

At Cumar, we have sourced, crafted, and installed the finest quality natural stone surfaces for eight generations. Today, we offer the area's largest selection of natural stone surfaces, including marble, granite, limestone, and some of the most exotic semi-precious materials you can find. **Visit our warehouse today, and let your imagination run wild.**

It would be our pleasure to assist you with any of your natural or solid surface needs. Please feel free to contact our Care & Maintenance department at 617.389.7818 or email us at service@cumar.com to set up your appointment today.

This is a general care and maintenance guideline for stone. The frequency of cleaning and maintenance varies from user to user and from stone to stone and depends on how well the stone is taken care of on a regular basis. Cumar shall not be held responsible for any issues that arise from mishandling of stone.



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