

# Care and Cleaning of Concrete Counters

**Thank you for purchasing Stone Soup Concrete counters.** As your concrete ages it will subtly change. Over time colors can deepen and intensify and the counter will change to reflect the way you use it. We have sealed your counters against most elements but care should be taken to maintain them. The sealing strategy that we employ allows the concrete to 'breathe' as cementitious hardening continues for years.

As concrete remains a work in progress for many years, there are some things that will require a little extra attention, particularly while the counters are young. As the seal allows for a small amount of vapor transfer, temporary local darkening may occur when steam filled pot lids or hot coffee cups are placed on the counter. This is normal and no cause for alarm.

The sealing process that we employ is designed to resist low-density oils, but the seal has a vapor permeability to allow the concrete to continue to cure properly. Therefore, if an oil container is kept directly on the counter and in the same location, a patina may evolve in that area. The nature of this marking can be quite beautiful, characterized by a linear enhancement of the structure of the concrete in that area.

Concrete's curing mechanism is alkali in nature, so acids can etch raw concrete. Acids that carry color can stain if they are allowed enough time to penetrate the sealant membrane. So it is wise to clean up spills of red wine, vinegar, lime juice etc. in a timely manner.

To clean concrete, use a mild non-abrasive soap. Avoid cleansers with ammoniated or acidic (citrus) components. We recommend Ivory white or Doctor Bronner's Castile soap applied with a non-abrasive sponge or cloth. If a stain persists in a localized area, try using a baking soda poultice to remove it. To do this mix baking soda with water to a peanut butter like consistency. Spread it over the affected area at least ¼" thick, cover with plastic wrap, and allow to dry. The poultice will extract oil and pigment (like coffee) stains quite effectively. Multiple applications may be required for more stubborn stains.

A small bottle of our sealer will be provided upon delivery of your countertop. You can follow the simple instructions on the label for continued maintenance. If you apply a wet sponge to your countertop and notice a darkening or deepening of color it is a good indicator the surface has become porous and should be sealed again.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

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