

THE HODOROWSKI GROUP

DEVELOPER • BUILDER • GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Cleaning and Sealing Granite Countertops

Cleaning granite countertops really is simple and easy. There can be some confusion as many myths and misinterpretations are passed around, but you don't need to be a stone savant or attend a special class to learn how to clean granite countertops effectively.

Proper granite countertop care below and by following the various links to pages about sealing granite countertops, how granite sealers work, etc.

Re-Sealing Frequency

Hodorowski Homes applies granite sealer upon installation of the slabs. We recommend you seal the granite again within the first 6 months of occupancy. Light colored granites and stones are especially susceptible to staining, and will need to be sealed annually.

We recommend [SenGuard or Stone Sentry Sealers](#).

Just like cleaning granite countertops, sealing is a very easy job and unless you have a stone that really shouldn't be sealed (i.e. some black, blue, green granites), then re-sealing when needed will ensure that your countertops are well protected against staining.

Recommended Cleaning Routine

Daily:

Hot water and dish rag or sponge is all you need to clean spills and wipe away crumbs to keep your countertops clean and tidy throughout the day. At the end of the day, a quick spray and wipe of the most heavily used areas with a good stone cleaner like [Stone PLUS](#) is sufficient to clean, disinfect and protect your countertops and provide a streak-free shine.

Weekly:

Use the granite countertop cleaner over the entire surface and edges to remove all dust and debris from around countertop appliances, containers, etc. This also serves to condition the stone and maintain its overall luster.

Recommended Cleaning Routine (Cont.)

Quarterly:

Topical temporary polishes like [DAZZLE Stone Polish](#) can be used periodically to enhance the shine for the ultimate in natural stone and granite countertop care.

Such topical dressings are not for maintenance or repair. And such products are *not* what make countertops shiny. The shine or "polish" is achieved by big machines using intense friction at the factory.

Calling these products a "polish" is confusing, but that's the deal.

If your granite countertops have become dull for some reason you will most likely need to consult a professional. No chemical or product will restore granite (marble and travertine are a different story in some cases).

A topical polish may improve the look a bit, but will not correct the problem. And since it's not meant to be permanent, it will wear off with use and cleaning.

Yearly:

[Testing for sealing granite countertops](#) annually is a good idea to determine when you need to re-seal.

You will likely know anyway that it is time to re-seal when you start to notice that water around the sink darkens the stone... meaning that it is absorbing.

Insider Tip: When shopping for granite (or any stone) you should perform the [Lemon Juice Test](#) prior to purchase on a sample of the exact slab to determine suitability of the stone for its intended use.

For kitchen countertops especially you don't want a granite that is too absorbent (there are some) or a stone that will etch like marble (and a few rare granites).

Of course, you should also perform the water test upon installation (if you didn't do it while shopping) to determine if your natural stone even needs sealing (many do not and cannot be sealed).