STONE CARE GUIDE

Roth Stone Restoration



MARBLE, GRANITE, TRAVERTINE & MORE.

NATURAL STONE IS A TIMELESS CLASSIC

When it comes to stone care there is a lot of misinformation out there. This guide aims to provide the “correct” information to help you take care of your natural stone and enjoy it for many years. Keep this guide as a “quick go to” but know that we are always here to answer your questions and provide you with advice and resources.

Roth Stone Restoration invites you to visit our website or give us a call for product and maintenance recommendations for your stone.

Serving Southern California, including the Inland Empire, Orange County, Coachella Valley and northern San Diego County.

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Roth Stone Restoration

NATURAL STONE INSTITUTE MEMBER

MARBLE, LIMESTONE, TRAVERTINE

These are some of the most beautiful stones in existence. They come in many different colors and veining patterns. However, they tend to be very soft and more porous and are prone to staining and etching.

Staining occurs when a colored substance permeates the stone. Good examples are Red Wine, Fruit Punch, Hair Dye, and other Cosmetics. Using a good Sealer (see our information page on Sealers) can help to prevent staining but a quick clean up and some prevention will go a long way.

Etching occurs when something acidic contacts the stone. It leaves a "cloud or watermark". This is the most common reason people seek out advice from Roth Stone Restoration. Although a Sealer may help prevent staining there is no sealer made that can prevent etching.

DO'S & DON'TS

DO use cutting boards, coasters, trivets, and placemats on your marble and stone surfaces while using them.

DO check the labels on all cleaning products to see if it says it is marble or stone safe if not don't use it! Cultured Marble is not the same as stone. Avoid powder or cream cleansers.

DO pick up any spills as soon as possible using a blotting technique rather than rubbing it.

DO use a daily neutral cleaner to clean all your marble and stone surfaces. It is low in PH and won't harm the finish.

DO use neutral cleaner or rubbing alcohol to clean your mirrors to prevent overspray from harming your vanities.

DO use a tray to put your cosmetics on to prevent staining and etching.

DO call Roth Stone Restoration when your polished or marble or stone starts to lose it luster. Stone is a living organism and does require periodic maintenance and sealing.

DON'T use vinegar or other vinegar containing products or products containing lemon to clean your marble or stone. Some will etch.

DON'T use your marble or stone surface as a cutting board. It will scratch and perhaps stain depending on what you are cutting.

DON'T place hot items directly on your stone. Always use a trivet when dishes are hot.

DON'T use abrasive scrubbers or green type scouring pads as they can scratch your stone. Sponges with or without netting are a good choice. Spray your countertop with a neutral cleaner, of course, and let it sit for a few moments...let the cleanser do the work and then clean it up.

DON'T believe a Sealer can prevent etching it does not! However, it does help prevent staining and protects the stone.

Check out our information page on Sealers to learn how to test your stone to see if you need Sealer.

GRANITE

Granite is one of the most durable stones. It provides years of beauty and is considered low maintenance.

Granite is resistant to stains. Generally, any liquid spilled on granite, if wiped up within a few minutes, will not stain. However, even water can soak into a granite countertop and leave a dark colored spot, but this should evaporate in minutes. Sealing can help prevent dark spots from occurring. Liquids that do not evaporate, such as oils, will cause stains if left to soak into the stone.

Granite counters are heat resistant and can withstand some heat of hot pots and pans without damage. However, use a trivet or mat, an ounce of prevention....

Impact from a heavy object or shifts in the underlayment of the stone may cause granite to chip or crack. This is the most common repair request Roth Stone Restoration receives from Owners of granite.

DO'S & DON'TS

DO test your stone to see if you need sealer periodically. Telltale signs are dark areas on the surface where water has absorbed into the stone. Although harmless a good sealer will help prevent this.

DO use a daily neutral cleaner to clean your granite surface. Although it can withstand more astringent cleansers neutral cleaner doesn't leave a cloudy film and helps your stone to look its best.

DO call Roth Stone Restoration to fix any chips or cracks as soon as they happen. If not, it will just be a matter of time until they become larger.

DO call us when your granite loses its luster. Granite is a living stone and although considered virtually maintenance free restoring the surface will bring back it's natural beauty.

DON'T stand or sit on any stone counter top. The weight may stress the underlying surface and cause the stone to crack or break off.

DON'T let any oil type product sit on the stone. When cooking clean up all fry splatters immediately or when using a fryer use a silicon mat underneath to prevent staining of the stone.

DON'T believe your granite needs sealing every 6 months or even a year. See our Sealer information page on how to test your stone to see if it needs to be sealed.

Check out our information page on Sealers to learn how to test your stone to see if you need Sealer.

SEALER

Sealer is vital to keeping your stones natural beauty protected and stain free. Sealer adds a barrier to the stone, which helps prevent staining by giving you extra time to clean up spills that would otherwise soak into the stone immediately. While no stone sealer is truly stain-proof, high-quality sealers provide stain resistance by extending the reaction time of the contaminant on the stone. In other words, stone that has not been properly sealed will stain much more quickly than a stone that has been sealed.

Do your stone surfaces need sealing?

Here is an easy test to see if they do. This should be performed twice yearly.

The Water Sealer Test is quite simple but will be important for knowing when to replenish your sealer.

1. Pour water, about 3 inches in diameter, on several different places of the surface. Let the water sit for about 15 minutes
2. If you see a dark mark or ring, the water is penetrating the stone (don't worry, it will evaporate) and it's time to reseal.
3. Ensure you?ve tested key areas of your counter top such as areas near sinks or appliances where liquid is most likely to accumulate on the counter top. If you already see dark areas around your stove top oil may have permeated the stone. Call Roth Stone Restoration for an assessment and solution.

Roth Stone Restoration is a certified in the application of the stone industries most world renown sealers. We access your stones sealer needs and provide the right solution for your situation. Just as all stones are not alike your Sealer choice may vary with your stone's attributes and your desired outcome.

Not all Sealers are created equal!