

GRANITE CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE



Polycor natural stone products are virtually maintenance-free and, when properly maintained, will provide long-term performance for generations to come.

MAINTENANCE

Granite surfaces should be kept free of debris and soiling by periodically sweeping or by using a mechanical blower on the surface. When maintaining exterior hardscaping, the ideal is to wash it at periodic intervals (annually, depending on atmospheric conditions) by hosing down the areas with clean water. This will prevent the accumulation of dirt and impurities. Granite is extremely durable, resists freeze-thaw cycles, is unaffected by ice melting products, and provides durable non-slip surfaces.

CLEANING

Begin with a simple solution of mild detergent, and water. Then, scrub the surface with a soft bristle brush. Rinse with clean water to remove remaining cleaning solution. If more stubborn soiling exists, use an approved stone cleaner or pH neutral cleaner approved for granite. Some stone cleaners also contain small amounts of sealer. These products help to maintain the level of protection. Brushes may be necessary for the removal of certain surface impurities. Soft fiber bristle brushes are recommended.

When dirt has accumulated on older surfaces over an extended period of time, a combination of methods may be necessary to properly clean the granite. A plain water jet, from a power washer, will typically remove most accumulation. Adjust the pressure on the machine accordingly and do not exceed 1,200 Psi, from a 45-degree fan-shaped nozzle, holding the tip no closer than 6 inches to the face of the granite. No chemicals should be used that could be harmful to the granite. Note, however, that even high-pressure water can cause damage. Proper pressure, nozzle size, and working distance should be maintained consistently during the process.

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One type of accumulation that can occur on granite, marble, limestone, concrete, and other calcareous materials is algae, which appears to be an accumulation of dirt affected by water flowing over the surface. This material can be removed by using diluted hydrogen peroxide (1/2 cup in a gallon of water) or vigorously scrubbed over the wetted granite, if necessary. After cleaning with a soft bristle brush, loosened algae can be hosed away without harming the stone's surface. Test a small, inconspicuous area first to gauge results.

Avoid direct contact with oil-based materials and metals prone to rusting such as iron, copper, or bronze. In most outdoor applications, with the sources removed, normal sun and rain action will generally remove most stains.

PROTECTIVE COATINGS

To maintain the aesthetic beauty of the original installation, applying an impregnating sealer coating to the granite surface might be required. While it is not a requirement to seal Polycor natural stone, a sealer application may aid in cleaning the surface should it become dirty. Test in an inconspicuous area before applying, and use per the manufacturer's recommendations.

For additional information regarding care and maintenance of granite, consult the Dimension Stone Design Manual, published by the Natural Stone Institute, or visit naturalstoneinstitute.org

This guide offers an organized collection of information or a series of options and is not intended as a specific course of action. This document cannot replace education or experience and should be used in conjunction with professional judgment. Not all aspects of this guide may be applicable in all circumstances.