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**Recycled Glass Surfaces:** Curava, Vetrazzo, Glass2

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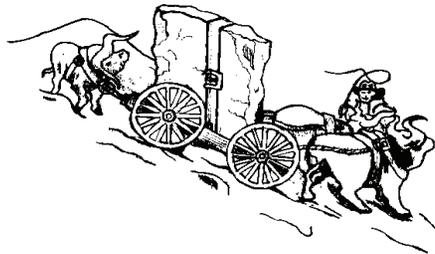
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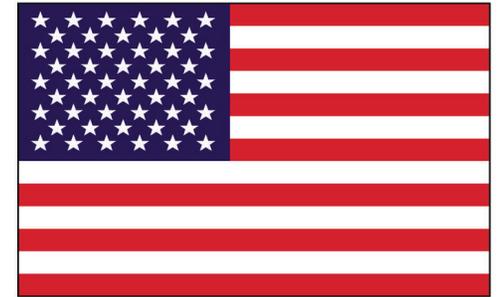
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## NATURAL STONE CARE GUIDE



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# NATURAL STONE CARE GUIDE

**MARCO JETTE LLC** Setting the Benchmark of the Natural Stone Industry. Established in 1999 based on the principals of integrity, excellence and prestige. As a global firm, we strive to provide superior products to our clients without the compromise of affordable pricing, high quality & integrity.

## **Congratulations!**

You made the right choice. By choosing natural stone you made an excellent investment for your home. Your new stone will provide you with many years of functionality, but what you may not know is that in order to retain it is beauty, some basic, yet important maintenance is required by homeowner.

The good news is that stone care products make caring for natural stone surfaces easy. By following simple do's and don'ts on this stone care guide you will extend the life and help preserve the value of your stone or investment.

## **1st Protective Sealers**

The best way to prevent stains on natural stone is to treat it with a natural stone protective sealer. Natural stone is porous. Sealers fill in the natural pores and repel spills on the surface giving you time to wipe them away before penetrating deep into the stone. In today's stone industry most stone is resin sealed by the processor of the material prior to shipping from country of origin to regional distributors. To insure the stone is sealed Marco Jette LLC seals the counters a second time however most tile applications do not come already sealed and will need to be sealed by purchasers. Some sealers that are (solvent based) can darken the color of natural stone while others (water based) retain stones natural prism of hue. Additionally, different stone types require different grades of sealer depending on what the application of the stone will be and what you want it to finally look like. Lastly, if you shall develop a stain stone care companies provide stain remover (poultice) to remove them depending on your specific needs.

## **2nd Step away from household cleaners**

Once your stone is sealed with a stone sealer, clean up is a breeze. You may ask what to use for every day cleaning. You wouldn't use a harsh, ordinary household cleaner to wash your car would you? Natural stone demands the same kind of care. It needs cleaning products specifically engineered for its mineral composition. For everyday cleaning you must clean with a gentle, ph-neutral formula that removes soils while reinforcing the original protective sealer to assist in preventing future staining. General cleaners not specifically formulated for natural stone are never recommended. These harsh abrasive cleaners with a non neutral ph can break down strip the sealer, there by removing its protective properties and making the stone more vulnerable to stains. Moreover, many cleaning products, including those that contain lemon, vinegar, bleach, ammonia can etch the polish, or discolor the surface. If its not a natural stone care cleaner then its is not to be applied to your investment.

## **Etch Marks– Those Aren't Water Stains**

While everyday messes aren't the end of the world, many common household items have the ability to degrade your stones' beauty and polished luster. Etching is the result of a chemical reaction that occurs when any thing acidic comes into contact with a surface. Etch marks on stone prone to etching resemble water spots or a worn polish. Items such as (Food & Beverages) lemon juice, orange juice, coffee, vinegar, wine, tomato product, mustard, etc. and many soft drinks, alcoholic beverages or common toiletries like perfume, toothpaste, mouthwash are highly acidic and will etch discolor, or even scratch most marble, limestone, onyx, travertine. Acid resistant stones like granite slate and sandstone will not typically etch. Sealing will give you time to wipe up a spill, but cannot stop a chemical reaction that may leave a dull mark on the polished surface of stones prone to etching. Remember to always use coasters and mats on these acid sensitive stones.

## **Do's and Don'ts**

DO use professional sealers to protect stone.

DO clean up spills immediately to minimize damage of stone.

DO use trivets or mats under china, ceramics, silver, and other objects that can scratch your stones surface.

DO place small rug or a mat at entry ways to minimize wear to trap dirt and sand from normal foot traffic.

DO dust or carefully vacuum countertops, islands, vanities, and floors frequently.

DO use coasters under glasses, especially if they contain alcohol or citrus juices.

DO clean surfaces regularly with a stone care daily cleaner.

DO refer to recommended stone care sealer & cleaner sites.

DO call MARCO JETTE LLC professional for maintenance assistance or restoration.

DON'T wait to clean up spills on stone. Clean up as soon as reasonably possible.

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

DON'T use vinegar, bleach, ammonia or other general purpose cleaners.

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

DON'T use alkaline cleaners not specifically formulated for natural stone.

## **Stone Care Product Companies**

Please refer to the following stone care companies for all your stone care technical questions.

*HMK*

800-424-2465

<http://www.hmkstonecare.com>

*Lustro Italiano*

800-341-0432

<http://www.lustroitaliano.com>

*Stone Care International*

800-729-9029

<http://www.stonecare.com>

*Stone Tech (Dupont)*

877-STONETECH (786-6383)

<http://www.stonetechnopro.dupont.com>

## **These Products are Suitable for**

Cleaning (daily)

Polishing (monthly)

Disinfecting (as needed)

Sealing ( Semi Annually)

Enhancing (as wanted)

Restoring (if needed)

*SPECIAL NOTE:* Some material a purchaser may not want to seal if they want it to go through the process of natural antique. For example, some people occasionally prefer their natural stone to have an old world worn used appearance or soap stone which commonly gets a mineral oil applied for a period of three months to achieve the darkening of the stone. Discuss with your MARCO JETTE LLC representative any questions.