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GENERAL MAINTENANCE TIPS

Congratulations, you've got one of Mother Nature's best in your home!

It is time now to make sure that you're going to follow a few basic guidelines for its proper maintenance and preservation. Maintenance of natural stone is not much more difficult than any other material you're familiar with. The difference is mostly in the cleaning agents. Natural stones - especially calcite-based stones such as marble, travertine, limestone, etc. - have a delicate chemical composition that may interact in "strange" (damaging) ways with the chemistry of cleaning solutions that were not specifically formulated for the task. Once you know WHAT to use, all you have to do is follow the basic DOs 'n' DON'Ts listed here:

Spills can be very different in nature from one another. Most of them will turn out to be detrimental to stone if unattended. Orange juice, lemonade, wine, vinegar, liquors, tomato sauce, yogurt, salad dressing, perfume, after shave, wrong cleaning products and so on, through a long list, most likely won't damage "granite" and "green marble" surfaces, but will ETCH polished marble, travertine, limestone, onyx and alabaster. Therefore,

DO pick up any spill as quickly as you can get to it.

DON'T rub the spill, only blot it.

DON'T use any generic cleaning product on your natural stone, or nearby it (i.e.: a liquid toilet bowl cleaner when the toilet is set on a marble floor), unless the label specifies that it's safe on natural marble (cultured marble is manmade, and it's basically a plastic material).

DO clean your floor, shower, or countertop regularly with a neutral ph stone cleaner. And be sure to rinse every couple of cleanings. This will allow your stone or tile to be free of residues and dirt, and keep your surface in the best condition.

DO sweep your floors regularly, this won't allow loose dirt and debris to be put into the tile and grout from normal foot traffic and will help with limiting the amount of scratching from sand, dirt, and debris.