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## TILE COUNTERTOP MAINTENANCE

We want to assume that your kitchen countertop is made out of “granite” or green marble or soapstone or a honed finished stone. (If you have polished marble or polished travertine, then there not much that can be done to maintain their highly glossy finish, other than never use your countertop!) That said there is one thing and one thing only to keep into consideration. If a cleaning product was not specifically formulated to clean soil off while NOT interacting with the chemical makeup of the stone, its not safe to be used, period. This firm rule applies to all stone surface: floors, walls, etc. Included of course; but for some mysterious reason, when it comes to countertops there seems to be a particularly widespread trend by which most stone cleaners and fabricators recommend the wrong cleaning solutions to their customers. “Use a glass cleaner” or “use water with a little dish soap” are the most popular recommendations. They are wrong recommendations. So called glass cleaners may turn out to be too harsh to both the stone and the sealer (if one needed to be applied to it), while water and dish soap will leave an unsanitary film that will build up and become problematic to remove. (Try to wash your hands with dish soap and then rinses them under running water; observe how long and how much water it will take to rinse properly. To get the same result you’d have to rinse your countertop with a garden hose!). In conclusion generic household cleaners off the shelves of the supermarket are out, and specialty cleaners specifically formulated to deal with the delicate chemistry of the stone are, very definitely, in order.

**DO** clean regularly your kitchen countertop only with products that specifically state to be safe on natural stone in their label. MB-5 Marble, Granite, and More spray cleaner, full strength especially in proximity of the cooking and eating areas. Diluted in a proportion of 1:1 with water for less demanding situations (vanity tops, area of the countertop far from the cooking and eating one, etc.) is indeed an excellent performer.

**DON’T** let any spill sit too long on the surface of your countertop. Clean spills up (by blotting only) as soon as you can.

**DON’T** use any green or brown scouring pad. The presence of silicon carbide grits in them WILL scratch even the toughest granite. You can safely use those sponges lined

with a silvery net, or other plastic scouring pads. Remember, its very important to spray the cleaner and let it sit for a while to moisten and soften the soil, before scrubbing. Let the cleaning agent do the work! It will make your job much easier and effective!