

Soapstone Care & Maintenance Guide

A natural stone, Soapstone has many characteristics that make it low maintenance and easy to clean. Unlike granite or marble, Soapstone does not need to be sealed and most scratches can be taken care of without a professional.

Overview

Soapstone is:

- Heat Resistant- Soapstone is used not just for countertops but also to make fireplaces and ovens. You can take your pan from the stove and put it right on your countertops with no damage.
- Non-Porous- Soapstone is anti-microbial and won't stain.
- No Professional Repairs- Unlike granite and marble, Soapstone scratches do not need to be repaired by a professional.
- Acid Resistant- Spills on Soapstone will not stain or etch. Soapstone used to be used in laboratories and acid rooms due to its qualities.
- Coloring Easily Maintained- To darken Soapstone you only need to treat it with mineral oil or dry wax as opposed to granite or marble that needs to be treated annually by a professional.

Cleaning

Soap and water is all you need to clean Soapstone. Household cleaners are fine also. Abrasive cleaners such as Borax will only strip the oil off the stone.

Darkening / Treating

Soapstone will naturally darken with age, also called a patina. It won't however, darken consistently. To have a consistent dark Soapstone, you can use Mineral Oil or Dry Wax. The wax or oil is NOT sealing or protecting the Soapstone as it doesn't require either. It simply is enhancing the color and can be done as little or as often as you aesthetically prefer.

Dry Wax Vs Mineral Oil



1. Application

a. Mineral Oil- Easy to apply, take a dry cloth and spread it around the stone. Use another cloth or paper towel to wipe up excess. This will need to be done once a week for 6-8 weeks and then again every 6 months to a year after.

b. Dry Wax- More difficult to apply. Wax is like waxing a car, use little bits at a time and spread it around as far as it will go before applying more. Excess cannot be wiped up as easily as the oil. Dry Wax only needs to be applied once or twice and then every 6 months to a year after.

2. Hypoallergenic- Both products are all natural and food safe.

Repairing Scratches

Repairing scratches in Soapstone is simple and doesn't require a pricy professional.

Almost all scratches go away with another application or dry wax or mineral oil.

Deeper scratches can be buffed out with a little sanding, directions below.

1. Gather 3 different grits of sandpaper (or sanding pads)- 80, 120, 300 (easily purchased from any hardware store)
2. Start with 80 grit. Lightly rub on and around the scratch until you see most of the scratch worn away- be careful not to scratch so much that it creates a divot or depression.
3. Use 120 grit to finish sanding down the area.
4. Finish with 200 grit to smooth out the scratched area.
5. Apply a new coat of dry wax or mineral oil.