

Maintenance and Care of Honed Marble, Travertine and Limestone Benchtops

Honed finish is generally considered more appropriate than polish for any work surface as a polished surface is extremely vulnerable to abrasive action or spillages of acidic substances. While a honed finished is also equally vulnerable, it is also more “forgiving” and on this basis many choose honed marble as a kitchen, vanity and table tops finish.

Washing & Cleaning

Regular maintenance in the form of periodic washing with warm, clean potable water. Availability of special cleaning fabrics, allows washing or wiping with less risk of streaks or wash marks, (see Enjo recommendation below). If necessary to use a detergent it is important that it be a neutral product. Mild phosphate free biodegradable liquid dish soaps, are acceptable if rinsing is thorough on completion. Alternatively use Johnsons “View Quick” non-rinse Cleaner (see recommendation below). (Do not use Ajax or Jiff or other aggressive cleaning products) For removal of difficult marks, we suggest “Tempo Heavy Duty Cleaner” (see recommendations below). “Tempo” is an aggressive but non-acidic neutral cleaning agent however rubber gloves should be used while applying this product.

Enjo Approach

Daily maintenance can be made easy and environmentally friendly by use of “Method Daily Granite” or “Method Go Naked” surface cleaner, (more for cases where cutting grease or grime is required). (See recommendation below).

Option specific to stone industry: An additional product option produced specifically for the marble industry is “Lithofin Easy Clean” for daily maintenance or “Lithofin Power Clean” for removal of difficult marks, (see recommendation below).

Sealing

All honed marble, travertine & limestone tops installed by Bernini Stone and Tiles have been sealed with a penetrating sealer prior to installation). This is a penetrating sealer and does not change the appearance of the material or leave a film on the surface. While the product is extremely effective it does not provide resistance to acidic substances (e.g. alcohol or citrus juice). Tops should be resealed every 12 months, depending on the intensity of use. (For sealer options, see our list for recommended penetrating sealer products and application contractor recommendations).

Maintenance and General Protection

Please note that the sealing referred to above deals specifically with the porosity of the material and minimizes any risk of staining but does not protect the honed surface from scratching, abrasion or attack from acidic substances. To protect the honed surface we recommend regular application of “Delta Pulsar” (see recommendation below), a wax based polish that will enhance and protect the surface. During application the “Pulsar” tends to dry quickly leaving application marks. These are best removed and the surface polished with a fine grade steel wool. Some marbles e.g. black or high quality white will scratch with steel wool and a coarse fabric or polishing pad should be used instead (if in doubt contact one of

our staff to discuss). In the event that the “Delta Pulsar” wax is used on a regular basis, resealing with a penetrating sealer is no longer required as the wax effectively seals the surface.

In the event that a honed marble top is neglected or exposed to excessive use it is always possible to rejuvenate the surface finish by requesting a suitable marble and granite contractor to re-hone the tops.

Recommendations

- “Enjo” Mopping implement and fabrics – “Enjo” products, contact Kathy Smith 0400363960
- Method cleaning products - contact Kathy Smith 0400363960
- General Cleaning products: Johnsons View Quick non rinse cleaner & “Tempo Heavy Duty Cleaner”, available from;
- Bunzl Cash Store: 346 Newcastle Street, Perth ph. 9328 4200
- Campbells Janitor Supplies: 22 Irvine Street, Bayswater, ph. 9370 5100
- Statewide Cleaning Supplies: 39 Frobisher Street, Osborne Park, ph9444 8677
- “Delta Pulsar Wax” & “Lithofin” products available from Bernini Stone & Tiles.