




The Countertop with a Conscience™

# Care & Maintenance

PaperStone® is a beautiful, sustainable composite material that is dense, durable and easy to care for. Due to its low porosity it is resistant to staining from food products or household cleaning products.




 *It is recommended that an initial sealing finish be applied to your new countertop to enhance the natural color of the panel and protect against possible spotting from oily foods left on the surface for prolonged periods.*

Refer to the PaperStone® Finishing Guide for more information on finish choices and application techniques.

## How to care for your PaperStone® surfaces on a daily basis

### DO —

- Do use a cutting board rather than cutting directly on the PaperStone® surface.
- Do use a hot pad or trivet to protect the surface and finish from excessive heat.
- Do wipe up spills immediately.
- Do wash with hot, soapy water; mild, non-abrasive, eco-friendly kitchen cleaner or bleach/water solution (*see reverse side for more information*).

 *PaperStone® is a green product. Look for earth-friendly cleaners. Harsh chemicals can harm people and the environment.*

- Do dry counter with a soft towel after washing to eliminate water spotting.
- Do use The Original Bee's Wax® spray wax, PaperStone® Cleaner/Rejuvenator, or apply a coat of paste wax after cleaning with a bleach/water solution or when water doesn't seem to bead up anymore or the luster seems to have diminished. Generally, it is not necessary to reapply The Original Bee's Wax® after every cleaning.

 *When using The Original Bee's Wax®, spray on a liberal amount. Wipe onto the entire surface, ensuring it is spread evenly, then wipe off the excess using a soft, clean cloth towel until the appearance of the surface no longer changes. Allow to dry for a few minutes. The surface should not show fingerprints when touched. Time between applications of The Original Bee's Wax® varies according to use. If the surface is cleaned aggressively, it may need to be applied more often than when a mild dish soap and soft cleaning cloth is used. The overall look of the surface will tell you how often to apply The Original Bee's Wax®. Application of the wax will help protect the finish. > >*



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## Using a mild bleach/water cleaning solution

- A cleaning solution made from standard bleach diluted down at least 10 times with water is also an effective cleaner and disinfectant for PaperStone® counters. It is used in the restaurant industry to wipe down food service areas and kill any food bacteria. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends a 1:10 bleach to water solution.



*Note: Some states require that food-contact surfaces be cleaned regularly with a diluted mixture of bleach and water. For example, Washington State requires that restaurants and lounges use a mixture of 1 oz. bleach to 2 gallons water for daily cleaning. If you currently use a cleaning solution that contains some bleach, test before using it on a daily basis. If there is no apparent damage to the finish, continue using it. Bleach solutions only affect the finish if concentration levels are too strong.*

## DON'T —

- Don't cut on the surface, always use a cutting board.
- Don't put hot items directly on the surface.  
If the object is too hot to handle with your bare hands, use a trivet or hot pad. PaperStone® will withstand temperatures up to 350°F without warping, de-lamination, or discoloration. However, wax-based finishes and other types of finishes will not tolerate that much heat. The wax will melt and need to be reapplied. Oil-based or polyurethane finishes may also need to be reapplied if damaged by excessive heat.
- Don't use cleansers that contain bleach. *See note above concerning mild bleach and water solutions.*
- Don't use abrasive cleaners or abrasive cleaning tools (such as sponges with scouring pads on one side or steel wool). There are many disinfecting cleaners on the market today that are clearly marked as being *not abrasive*. If swirl marks or scratches appear after cleaning, switch to a different cleaning product. Scratch marks or swirls may be removed by reapplying The Original Bee's Wax® spray wax. However, it is better to use non-abrasive cleaners and avoid scratches and swirls altogether.
- Don't slide heavy objects, or objects with sharp edges, across the counter-top surface.
- Don't use chemicals to clean or refinish PaperStone® surfaces unless you intend to remove the existing finish entirely and completely refinish the panel.



## How to repair rubs or scratches in your PaperStone® surfaces

- To remove rubs, stains or light scratches, use a non-woven pad (Scotch-Brite® maroon 7447 or similar product) to evenly buff the surface. Non-woven pads can be used with a vibrating orbital sander or by hand. Be sure to treat the entire surface, not just the problem area. If only the problem area is worked, that area will appear to have more luster with a noticeable difference in texture from areas that were not buffed. This process does not necessarily require an extreme amount of pressure; just think of it as an aggressive cleaning. After the entire section of PaperStone® has been worked over with the non-woven pad it will have a dull appearance and show swirl marks from the abrasion process. These marks will disappear after reapplication of the finish.
- After sufficiently buffing the surface to remove scuffs or scratches, remove any dust or residue completely by washing with denatured alcohol. Let stand until completely dry.
- Reapply a thin coat of the finish that was originally applied to your surface. Refer to the PaperStone® Finishing Guide for more information on finish choices and application techniques.
- Since this is a refinish, a single coat should be sufficient. After the finish is allowed to dry completely (at least 8 hours), spray on a new coat of The Original Bee's Wax® (or PaperStone® Cleaner/Rejuvenator) and the surface will be ready for use.

