

You have a one-of-a-kind, handcrafted concrete countertop. Please read the information below and call or email us with any questions. Enjoy!

Your concrete countertops have been sealed with an invisible “natural looking” penetrating sealer, providing *incidental* protection from food contact. Since concrete is naturally porous and is not stain-proof, expect your countertops to stain and develop a warm patina over time. Regular cleaning and routine waxing is the best way to protect and maintain your countertops.

STAINING

1. Trapped water that cannot naturally evaporate (*under a coffee maker, etc.*) may leave a watermark. **Always allow for airflow under items that sit on your countertop.**
2. **OILS, LIQUID DISH DETERGENT, MUSTARD, ACIDIC FRUITS, WINE, SOY SAUCE, VINEGAR** and **SODA** can penetrate the sealer and stain or etch the concrete. **Clean these spills immediately.**
3. While concrete is heat resistant, the wax is not. We suggest using trivets to avoid melting the wax.

In a kitchen or food service environment, staining on concrete with this type of sealer is almost inevitable. The first stains are always the hardest. With years of use the stains will blend and fade and your countertops will develop a warm patina. It is important to re-seal your countertops annually to provide the best protection. Ultimately it is possible to refinish your concrete countertops.

CLEANING

A neutral pH cleaner like Simple Green's *Stone Care Cleaner* or Dr. Bronner's natural soap work well. Spray and wipe with a soft cloth or sponge. Avoid **ABRASIVES, HARSH CHEMICALS, or CITRUS CLEANERS.**

WAXING

In addition to the sealer, wax is a “renewable” coating that helps to protect the concrete from staining. For the first month we recommend weekly waxing to protect the sealer as it continues to cure to its full strength. Waxing should continue at least once a month or before expected heavy use (*dinner party or house guests, etc.*).

Directions:

1. Use a carnauba wax approved for food surfaces. We use the *Trewax* brand.
2. Apply a light coat of wax with a soft cloth to a small 2' x 2' section.
3. Wait a one-minute and buff to a smooth shine using a clean cloth in a circular motion.

RE-APPLICATION OF SEALER or STAIN REMOVAL

Re-application of the sealer is easy and should be done once or twice a year. Sealer can be purchased from Red Concrete.

1. Remove the wax by wiping down with mineral spirits.
2. Remove any unwanted stains or acid etching with automotive sandpaper or a diamond pad. Clean any residue with Acetone. *Contact Red Concrete for specific instructions.*
3. Re-apply the sealer as directed until it is no longer absorbed.
4. Wait 24 hours and then apply wax.

Spot repairs are possible to remove or lessen staining or etching by using the same procedure as above to the effected area. It is also possible to completely refinish (grind, polish, and re-seal) your concrete countertops.