

Maintaining Quartz Surfaces



Quartz surfacing is a nearly indestructible material. It is resistant to stains caused by wine, fruit juices, liquid food coloring, tea, nail polish and remover, and felt-tip markers. Its non-porous nature is also extremely hygienic, making it a food-safe choice. Additionally, since it is a non-porous material, quartz polished surfaces do not need to be sealed as do other stones to prevent staining.

Though the quartz surface can briefly tolerate moderate temperatures for a brief time, it can be damaged by high heat and prolonged exposure to heat. Use a hot pad or trivet when placing a hot pan on it.

As with any other stone or surface material, strong chemicals and solvents such as Drano®, Liquid Plumber®, oven cleaners and floor strippers will damage quartz surfaces. The following are tips for cleaning your quartz surface:

Polished Surfaces (high gloss)

Routine cleaning involves little more than soapy water or a mild household cleaner such as Formula 409®, Fantastik® or Windex®.

Honed Surfaces (smooth with more of a matte look)

A honed surface will require more daily maintenance than polished finishes. Since there is more exposed surface area with honed finishes, metal marks, finger prints and other signs of daily living will show on honed material. Most of these marks can be easily removed with little effort and cleaning products such as Soft Scrub™. For tough stains, work the area with a Scotch Brite™ pad.

Cambria Care and Maintenance

Q: How do I maintain Cambria's natural beauty?

A: Maintaining your Cambria is easy. Simply wash with warm water and pH neutral, non-abrasive cleaners such as Formula 409® or Simple Green®, with a clear water rinse. For dried spills, a wet cotton cloth should be used. Avoid bleach; alkaline (high pH) cleaners such as oven cleaner, abrasive cleansers such as Comet®, Soft Scrub® products or products containing pumice, SOS® pads and other similar products, paint removers, furniture strippers, tarnish or silver cleaners or the like. DO NOT apply any sealers, penetrants or topical treatments to Cambria under any circumstances. If you have any questions about whether a specific product is acceptable, please contact Cambria.

Q: Is Cambria resistant to surface damage?

A: Yes, Cambria is structurally more resistant to surface damage than other stone. However, all stone can be damaged by excessive force or pressure. Cambria will resist stains from fruit juices, food coloring, coffee, tea, grape juice and nail polish. Cambria's high gloss finish and extremely low moisture absorption provides maximum resistance to staining and fully eliminates the need for any sealing. Its low absorbency greatly reduces the potential for bacterial growth, mold or mildew.

Q: How does Cambria withstand heat?

A: Natural stone can be damaged by sudden and rapid change of temperature, especially near the edges, as well as direct or sustained heating of the top. Cambria may not withstand the direct transfer of heat from pots and pans and other cooking units such as electric frying pans and griddles, and some crock-pots, roaster ovens and heat lamps. Therefore, the use of a hot pad or trivet is always recommended.

Q: Can I cut on my Cambria countertop?

A: Yes. Cambria is pure natural quartz, giving it superior strength and beauty. Quartz is a 7 in strength on Moh's Hardness Scale. (A diamond is a 10) You will find that Cambria is so durable, even your finest cutlery won't harm it.

Q: Will Cambria fade, yellow, or discolor over time?

A: No, unlike other surfaces made of plastic and polymers, Cambria's luster and color is natural and everlasting.

Q: Is it possible that assuring the beauty of my Cambria can be this "care-free?"

A: Yes, it is really this easy. Cambria's care-free benefits and everlasting performance gives you more time for the things that matter most to you.

Source: <http://www.cambriausa.com/consumer/maint-res2.cfm>

Zodiaq® Care and Maintenance

DuPont Zodiaq® quartz surfaces are very easy to maintain. The quartz used in Zodiaq® - coupled with high-performance, stain-resistant polymers - results in a durable, nonporous, chemical-resistant surface. Zodiaq® is also heat- and scratch-resistant, but not heat- and scratch-proof. Therefore, the use of a cutting board is recommended when using a knife. Of course, Zodiaq® keeps its lustrous gloss and ultra-smooth surface without polishing. Because it is nonporous, Zodiaq® does not require sealants or waxes. Zodiaq® also gives you peace of mind. In the unlikely event that you do experience any problems due to a manufacturer's defect, you can rest assured that DuPont backs Zodiaq® with a 10-year limited warranty.

Routine Care

With simple care, Zodiaq® will retain its radiant, lustrous appearance for many years. For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or paper towel and, if necessary, a small amount of non-bleach, nonabrasive cleanser. Even though Zodiaq® resists permanent staining when exposed to liquids (such as wine, vinegar, tea, lemon juice and soda) or fruits and vegetables, wipe up food and liquid spills as soon as possible. For stubborn or dried spills, use a nonabrasive cleaning pad such as a white 3M Scotch-Brite®* scrub pad coupled with Formula 409® Glass & Surface Cleaner** or a comparable cleaning product. Avoid using cleansers that contain bleach. Always follow the cleaner manufacturer's use instructions and exercise proper care when handling and storing any cleaning products.

* Scotch-Brite® is a registered trademark of the 3M Company.

**Formula 409® Glass & Surface Cleaner is a registered trademark of the Clorox Company.

Preventing Heat and Other Damage

Zodiaq® can withstand exposure to normal cooking temperatures from pots, pans and dishes without being damaged. To maintain the beauty of Zodiaq®, do not place hot skillets or roasting pans directly onto the surface. DuPont recommends the use of trivets and hot pads.

Removing Difficult Spills

Sometimes spills occur and dry on the countertop. For materials that harden as they dry (such as gum, food, grease, nail polish or paint), remove by gently scraping away the excess with a plastic putty knife. Permanent markers and inks may adhere to the surface and should be avoided. Should these agents come into contact with the surface, clean first as outlined in Routine Care. If the stain persists, moisten a cloth with Saniten 313*, Greased Lightning™**, or a comparable product and rub it into the stain. Let the cleaning agent sit for 15 minutes and wipe the surface clean with a cotton cloth. Rinse thoroughly to remove any cleaner residue. Avoid exposing Zodiaq® quartz surfaces to strong chemicals and solvents, especially paint removers or furniture strippers containing trichlorethane or methylene chloride. Keep nail polish remover, bleach, bluing, permanent markers or inks, and oil soaps away from Zodiaq®. While casual exposure to alkaline materials will not damage Zodiaq®, highly alkaline (high-pH) cleansers are not recommended when cleaning Zodiaq®. If any of the substances listed above come into Zodiaq®, rinse the exposed surface immediately and thoroughly with water.

*Saniten 313 may be purchased by calling 717-626-7661, visiting Saniten's Web site at www.saniten.com or by sending an e-mail to saniten@mailcity.com.

**Greased Lightning™ is available through major department and hardware stores. For more information, visit www.greased-lightning.com.

Source: http://www.zodiaq.com/zodiaq/a/en/h/Owner_Support/CareandMaintenance.html

Silestone Care and Maintenance

Silestone® is virtually maintenance-free. It does not need to be sealed and cleaning is a cinch. Simply wipe the surface with soap and water on a regular basis to maintain its beauty and shine for years to come.

Difficult spills

To remove difficult spills, soak the area for 10 minutes with a mild household cleaner (such as Formula 409®, Lysol®, or Windex®) then rinse and clean away with a soft Scotch Brite® pad. For stains that harden as they dry, such as food and gum, remove by gently scraping off of the surface (using a blade or putty remover) and then clean using warm water and soap.

Extreme heat

Silestone is resistant to heat and can withstand moderately high temperatures for brief periods of time without being damaged. As with any natural stone, however, certain exposure to heat may cause cracks due to thermal shock. Always use a trivet to place hot items on Silestone. Do not use crock pots or electric skillets while in direct contact with Silestone natural quartz surfaces.

Harsh chemicals

The following will harm Silestone: Drano®, Liquid Plumber®, oven cleaners and floor strippers. Do NOT use these or any other harsh chemicals on your Silestone natural quartz surface.

Sunlight Exposure

Continuous long-term exposure to direct sunlight (UV rays) may result in slight discoloration of Silestone natural quartz surfaces.

General Precautions

To prolong the life of your knives, always use a cutting board. Natural quartz is one of the hardest minerals found in nature, making Silestone highly scratch-resistant. That same hardness may dull the sharpness of most knives.

Source: <http://www.silestoneusa.com/care/careandmain.cfm?SP=more>