



Outdoor Product Care & Maintenance

hardtopix

1777 DeWent Drive | Jenison, MI 49428

EVERYDAY MAINTENANCE:

It is recommended that you use a neutral cleaner to clean the concrete surface. Wipe up food or other spills after they happen with a soft cloth – especially acidic, alcohol-based or oil-based spills. Never use abrasive cleaners, acidic cleaners, oil soaps or furniture polish as these products may make the surface slick or soften the finish. Never use vinegar or ammonia and water as a cleaning solution as they act as a stripper and will damage the finish.

Our concrete countertops are sealed with an advanced penetrating sealer, which is durable, scratch and stain resistant. However, the sealer is NOT stain proof and will require annual sealing. The sealer will become more resistant to staining as the surface of the concrete gets denser over time. Sealer can be purchased from Hard Topix Concrete. Sealer can be wiped on with a lamb's wool applicator and spread around until the entire surface and sides are wet, buff to a haze and then wipe haze with a dry clean cloth to avoid streaks on the counter. Should staining or other blemishes occur on the countertop, they can normally be minimized in appearance or removed with re-applying sealer that can be purchased from Hard Topix. In some instances, natural elements like sun and rain will remove stains over time. Hard Topix also offers a reseal service for a service charge. Remember, the concrete is a natural material and will patina over time.

SUGGESTED PRODUCTS:

Most household products will not harm the finish. Here are a few products that will work great to clean your new countertops. (Avoid the use of Abrasive Cleaners)

Mild Soap & water
Lysol All Purpose
Seventh Generation All Purpose
Simple Green
Mr. Clean Multi-Purpose Spray
Fantastic
409

CAUTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Do not cut directly on your concrete surface. It won't damage the concrete, but it might damage the sealer, which protects the concrete. Always use a cutting board when cutting and preparing foods.

Avoid placing hot pots and pans directly on your concrete surface. Concrete is very heat resistant, but again, the concern is damaging or discoloring the sealer. Use a trivet or a hot pad.

Avoid dragging sharp, hard objects across the concrete surface to prevent scratching. Minor white scratches should be expected throughout the piece from use over time. Place tabs on the bottom of any ceramic or other dishware to prevent additional scratching when sliding these items across the surface. Applying Maguire's Ultimate Quik wax every now and then can fill in minor scratches and give your pieces a nice sheen.

Acidic foods and beverages such as lemon juice, mustard, vinegar, wine, soda, tomatoes, bananas, pumpkins/gourds, etc., perfumes, colognes, and cleaners that contain vinegar or citric acids, and other harsh chemicals or solvents such as ammonia, acetone, hydrogen peroxide, etc. should be avoided or cleaned off of your concrete surface as soon as possible. These substances may "eat" through the sealer, leaving a light hazing, and could possibly expose or stain your concrete, **this is especially important for outdoor applications.** There are of course other items and products that may damage your sealer. We have tested against the most typical, but please use standard precautions to keep your concrete protected.

Avoid abrasive soaps, cleansers, or scrubbing pads that can wear down the sealer. We recommend using mild, non-abrasive, non-ammonia, non-citric acid, non-vinegar, non-bleach soaps and cleaners.

Your new concrete surface has the ability to breath out light stains. Keeping any items that may trap moisture off the countertop surface could help prevent any future staining, **especially in outdoor countertop applications.**

Please use standard care and precautions with your concrete products. Concrete is extremely durable, however, it is not invincible. Excessive force can do damage to your piece.

The best way to keep your concrete countertop looking its best is to understand its limitations. If you follow these maintenance techniques and take proper care, you will enjoy your counters for many years.