



MINNESOTA TILE & STONE

Tile Resource & Custom Stone Fabrication

CARE AND CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS:

SOAPSTONE

What is Soapstone? This rock is composed of several minerals but the most abundant is Talc. This natural quarried stone has a softer surface than other stones but is very dense and non-porous, acid resistant and heat proof. Remember back to Junior High science lab? The tables used for your experiments was most likely made of soapstone because of its density and non-porous surface. The soft surface will scratch easily but can be removed with small applications of dry wax or mineral oil. Deeper scratches might need more attention and could require 80 grit sanding pad. Because soapstone is so dense it will not stain easily. Soapstone typically comes in dark green, blue and grey. Soapstone will patina and darker over time on its own or wax and mineral oils can be applied to speed up this process.

Sealing Soapstone: Soapstone does not require sealer as it is non-porous.

Darkening/Treating Soapstone: Some people like to keep the stone's natural coloring. If that's the case then you don't need to do anything. The stone will darken with age on its own and patina. This is a slow process and will take time. If you want to speed up the patina process you can do so by using a dry wax or mineral oils. Both products are easy to apply.

If you choose mineral oil apply once a week for the first 6-7 weeks to get a sustainable darkening and then about every 3 months after that. The mineral oil will evaporate unevenly and could be appear splotchy as this process happens.

Dry wax applications should be once a week for the first 3-4 weeks and then every 8-12 months after that for sustainable rich color. Dry wax leaves a more even luster as it doesn't evaporate like mineral oil does.

Both products are all natural and food safe and can be found at most hardware stores.

Cleaning Soapstone: Simple soap and water is recommended and is the easiest and best way to go and will not remove the oil or wax treatment if applied.

For more information on care and cleaning click link:

<https://www.naturalstoneinstitute.org/consumers/care/>