



## **NATURAL STONE MAINTENANCE MANUAL**

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Product Used: **White “Calacatta” marble, Black “Nero Marquina” marble, Fine White Quartz Engineered stone, Jet Black, Bluestones and Eastwhite Crazy Cut stone**

Supplied by: **Dellermay P/L**

Manufactured by: **Dellermay P/L**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Marble has been used in building for thousands of years. Due to its prized aesthetic appeal it has more recently been used as counter/ bench tops.

Marble is a calcium carbonate-based, metamorphic stone formed by the re-crystallization of limestone under intense geological pressure, heat and time.

There are two types of marble, calcite and dolomite. These two types have similar but distinct properties that make it react in different ways when exposed to chemicals, heat and other forces. The existence of these two substances in minor amounts during rock formation cause the veining, clouds and mottled shading found in marble. This textured effect can vary from very fine uniform graining to large calcite crystals.

### **2. CLEANING & GENERAL MAINTENANCE/USE OF STONE COUNTER TOPS**

- Please note as a general rule for this type of marble DO NOT EVER ALLOW THE FOLLOWING TO COME IN CONTACT WITH THE STONE OR IT WILL STAIN: VINEGAR, LEMON, RED/WHITE WINE. ANY LIQUIDS CONTAINING ACIDS ESPECIALLY LIGHT OR TRANSPARENT LIQUIDS CONTAINING ACIDS (even impure water). COFFEE, BEETROOT, TOMATO. The items above are listed in order of risk for example if you let a drop of white vinegar touch your bench top it will instantly start to eat away at the stone regardless of sealer and leave a light discoloured stain even if you remove it immediately after contact. The longer you leave it on the bench top then the deeper the stain will become. Other items may take longer to cause a stain but all of this cause staining in the stone.
- Any spills must be removed/ cleaned immediately. As this stone is a porous material (even with a proprietary sealer), any spills will penetrate into the stone and cause stains. The duration that the fluids remain on the stone, and the type of fluid, determines the cleaning procedures/ rectification works necessary to eliminate the stains. Prolonged saturation will possibly require cleaning by mechanical means, ie. Buffing down stone. Cleaning with means of detergents ie. Acid free bleach, is possible if attended to early enough. The application of a stain-proof sealer, even though the name (stain-proof)



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suggests it, does not stop staining in its entirety, but will reduce the chance of staining by delaying inevitable liquid penetration into the stone. The source of the stain must be removed as soon as possible to avoid permanent damage to the stone surface.

- Please note that staining starts to occur the second that the corrosive material enters in contact with the stone. Even if you can't see the effects after the stone has been exposed. The contaminated area has been altered and weakened, and this will show up with time.

### **DON'TS**

- Don't sit or stand on the stone tops. Concentrated point loads can cause local damage, and can crack/ break the slab.
- Don't leave any timber or wet paper products on your bench top as this may stain.
- Don't cut anything on your bench top as this will scratch the surface. Avoid sharp object contact with the stone.
- Don't place hot products directly on your bench top as this may cause cracking and or discolouration
- Don't allow harsh chemicals to come into contact with your stone as this may cause damage.
- None of these items are covered by the warranty

### **DO's**

- At all Times: Remove all spills as they occur
- Daily: Wipe down bench with damp cloth
- Weekly: Clean bench top with neutral ph cleaner
- Yearly: All stone walls and benchtops require re-stripping and re-sealing every 12 months

### **3. GENERAL TIPS**

- As stated above, precautionary measures, such as "stain-proof" sealer will reduce the possibility of staining the stone. It will also help maintain the natural appearance and reduce time consumption in maintaining the stone.
- Clean the Stone thoroughly using fresh warm water, using only neutral detergents.
- Detergents containing alkali, acid, metallic salts and/or other strong substances can actually attack the surface of the stone, and are NOT to be used.
- Use clean fresh cloths preferably white cloths as dark dye in coloured cloth may stain stone
- A second rinse application may be required.



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- Depending on area of installation frequency of cleaning will vary, recommended frequency is one week.

### **4. REPAIR & REPLACEMENT:**

- Small chips can be repaired. Chips can be filled with a mix that matches the colour of the stone. The area must then be sanded and buffed up to create a consistent finish.
- Light scratches can be buffed or polished out.
- Material required for repair and replacement can be arranged from product supplier as previously stated. (It varies from availability of product at that time)
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEWLY POLISHED AREA WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AS THE ORIGINAL POLISH AS THIS IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE WITH MOST STONE MATERIALS. HONED MARBLE IS BETTER AND EASIER TO REPAIR BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO ACHIEVE A GLOSS FINISH WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO DO WITH HAND TOOLS ONSITE.
- Requirements to remove/replace/repair stone should be carried out by a qualified tradesperson.

### **5. SEALER INFORMATION**

Sealer being used for natural stone benchtops is LITHOFIN STAINSTOP WP. All stone walls and benchtops require re-sealing every 12 months and all floors internally or externally need re-sealing every 6-12 month depending on the level of traffic and use in these areas.

#### **SUPPLIER INFORMATION**

There are also many manufacturers of penetrating sealers on the market. It is important to ascertain the sealer is suitable for marble.

In the past we have had success with sealers supplied by.

CDK Stone Pty Ltd

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