

Simple Steps to Care for Granite, Marble and Other Natural Stone

Natural stone is one of the most sought-after upgrades in a home. Providing both versatility and timeless beauty, it's no surprise that granite is the most popular natural stone option. Though very durable, the composition of stone can make it sensitive to damage through daily use. By understanding a few important do's and don'ts, you can easily keep your home's natural stone looking as good as the day it was installed.

Natural stone like granite, marble, travertine and slate is commonly used for countertops and backsplashes in kitchens and bathrooms, two of the most-used rooms in a home. With the daily activity associated with these spaces, it's important to keep in mind some important stone maintenance tips.



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Tip 1: Don't use all-purpose, ammonia or bleach cleaners

Whether you have granite countertops in your kitchen or travertine tile in your bathroom, there is a correct way to clean the natural stone in your home. Many homeowners are tempted to use all-purpose cleaners or bleach to keep stone surfaces clean, but these types of cleaners may actually damage your stone. Cleaning products that contain vinegar, lemon or other acidic ingredients can dull the surface, reducing the stone's luster and eating away at the sealer. Ammonia-based cleaners should also be avoided as they can cause the stone's surface layers to wear off over time.

Tip 2: Do use safe stone cleaners

Do you want to know what cleaners are safe for granite and other natural stones? Smart homeowners only use specially... CONTINUED PG. 2



A few words from the President/Broker, Amanda L. Grover, SFR

I'm so excited to announce that we are in the process of building a new website! We felt it was due time for a fresh, modern look and more user friendly property search(es). We'll also be introduc-

ing a Central Adirondack Properties search, along with our featured listings up north. One thing we consistently heard about our previous website was how easy it was to find what you were looking for.

We've kept this in mind with the design of the new site. Your feedback and comments are always appreciated! I estimate the new site will go live no later than Mid-November. We'll

certainly let you know when it's official!

Simple Steps to Care for Granite, Marble and Other Natural Stone Continued...

“REASONABLE
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UNREASONABLE
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UNREASONABLE
PEOPLE.”
— GEORGE
BERNARD SHAW

formulated cleaners. For example, Zep Commercial's CleanStone Plus Cleaner + Polish is pH balanced to safely clean stone, making it ideal for countertops and tiles. It quickly removes dust and fingerprints while leaving a polish that acts as an extra barrier against moisture penetration. The CleanStone Plus Cleaner + Degreaser is a good water-based option for dirty back-splashes or sink areas as well as high traffic floor areas to remove scuffs and heel marks.

Tip 3: Do clean up spills immediately

Because natural stone is porous, spills can be absorbed, even if the stone has been sealed. That's why it's important to clean up food and liquid as quickly as possible. Acidic spills such as orange juice, tomato sauce and sodas are examples of kitchen spills that should be cleaned up immediately. In the bathroom, shaving cream, body soap and perfume spills are concerning. These types of spills have a higher potential for damage and cleaning them up quickly will help to prevent staining and etching.

Tip 4: Don't use scouring pads for tough spills

Always use a soft cloth or dishtowel to wipe surfaces. As tempting as it may be, avoid scouring pads or rough sponges, even if the spill has hardened. Rough materials are not safe for natural stone and can scratch or dull the surface, leaving it vulnerable. For tough spills or hardened food, spray a kitchen countertop cleaner first and let it soak for a few minutes. The cleaning agent will safely do the work for you and be much more effective than abrasive scrubbing.

Tip 5: Do seal your stone surfaces

Granite and other types of stone can be professionally sealed during the installation process, providing an extra protective shield. But sealing is something that needs to happen regularly to sustain this barrier. Maintaining the sealant is easy by using a cleaner with sealant built in, such as CleanStone Plus Cleaner + Protectant that rejuvenates stone and grout seals without leaving residue.

Whether you plan to upgrade to natural stone or it was one of the reasons you decided to purchase your

current home, it's important to protect your investment so it looks great for many years to come. These simple steps will help the stone retain its durability while adding to the aesthetic appeal of your home.

Article Courtesy of ARA Content

Get to Know Our Team! Some Things That Might Surprise You...



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We love FALL! Travis appreciates the cool weather because it's easier to work. He's been busy cutting fire wood. We heat with an outdoor wood burner and it seems we never get ahead. It's soup season for us, too! Homemade soup soothes the soul this time of year! Snuggle in and enjoy!

Dan and I are looking forward to Fall, it's our favorite time of year. We've listed 3 beautiful properties up in Old Forge and it's an added benefit to travel up to the north country this time of year and see the fall foliage. We've met some wonderful people this year and made some friendships in the process of selling their homes or finding a home for them. We especially enjoy finding that first home for our buyers!



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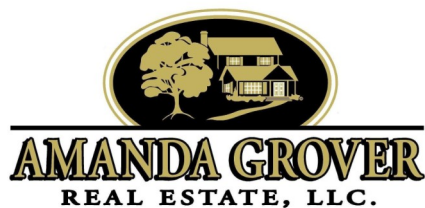
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I have been busy raking nuts and chasing squirrels! No apples but tons of nuts this year. Sure sign of a snowy winter...I hope! ;)

My wife and I just got back from a little get-away to Old Forge NY and Watertown. The weather was great but the foliage was a little behind -Still beautiful. Now it's time to get busy and take care of my clients. Give me a call to see what I can do for you.

I am very excited that construction on my Seneca Lake vacation rental is underway. I love the fall season in the Finger Lakes. When not working, I've been trying to spend time with friends and family as well as showing the beauty of the area to a Swedish student I'm hosting for the semester.

The newest member of my family is a stray cat I recently rescued from the streets. Due to his extra large ears, 'Spock' seemed like a *highly logical* name. He's healthy so we're sure he'll *live long and prosper*.



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AmandaGroverRealEstate.com

FEATURED PROPERTIES



**3038 STATE ROUTE 28
OLD FORGE, NY 13420**

Wilderness Interiors!

Bring your Family/Partners to the Adks. Highly successful/growing, turn key, established business dealing in Adirondack furnishings and decor. 5000 +sq ft retail space, storage, nearly 3000 sq ft owners/rental residence with 2 bd,2 bath very modern and private. CUSTOM kitchen, sunporch, and a LARGE Deck.3rd floor ready for expansion. Business is in a high traffic area, Outstanding curb appeal,2 offices,2 restrooms, New heating system,Garage,\$1000's worth of wood working equ. OWNER FINANCING!GREAT CASH FLOW! Call Sandy King! \$1,500,000.



**8896 WIXON RD
HAMMONDSPORT, NY 14840**

Waneta Lakefront!

This property has it all. 130 foot of water frontage. Nice home on full walk out basement. What beautiful views from the huge deck. Nice large landscaped yard and even has a vegetable garden. Also has a garage. Enjoy year around living on the lake. I know you will love it. Come and take a look. Call Phil Warren! \$250,000