

Care and Maintenance

Vanity Care

About Wood and Moisture

Wood has an affinity for moisture. Water moves up the trunks of trees through the pores and fibers of the wood – drawn from the ground by the transpiring leaves. When the tree is alive, the wood fibers are saturated with water; approximately 30% of the weight of such wood is composed of water. This wood is said to be at 30% moisture content.

After a tree is cut, water continues to move through wood until it reaches equilibrium with its environment. In a conditioned home, at around 75 °F and 55% relative humidity, wood reaches equilibrium at about 8% moisture content.

Wood changes dimension as its moisture content changes

For example, imagine that you have a white oak board on your porch, and due to the ambient relative humidity, it comes to equilibrium at 14% moisture content and it measures 12" wide. Then, you bring it inside for the winter. You turn on the heat, driving the relative humidity to 25%. The white oak board now comes to equilibrium at 5% moisture content, and the board measures 11 5/8" in width! The wood fibers themselves do not change in length – all changes in dimension is across or perpendicular in the grain. Finishes slow this movement of water in and out of the wood, but do not stop it completely.

Thus, we must anticipate and design for some dimensional changes in use. The wood in many homes will be subjected to changes in moisture content from 6-10%, so we are careful to build our furniture at 8% moisture content. The vanities can withstand periods of high or low humidity where the wood might reach 4% or 12%, but further extremes and rapid changes could cause cracks, raised grain and expansion and contraction. Cabinets should not be stored or installed in an uncontrolled climate environment, as expansion and contraction of wood joint and delamination of veneer may occur.

Maintenance of your Wood Vanity

REGULAR DUSTING

Use a lint free cloth for regular dusting. Do not use pre-moistened dusting sheets (they may damage the finish).

CLEANING

For everyday cleaning use a damp cloth and dry immediately. To remove general soil or grease, we recommend Murphy Oil Soap Original Formula. It is a great cleaner for all of your wood surfaces www.colgate.com/MurphyOilSoap.

WAXING & POLISHING

Waxing is not recommended. If polishing is desired, then a small amount of lemon oil applied to a clean, dry cloth may be applied to the finish.

Quartz Care

About Quartz

Our non-porous, 92% Natural Quartz stone is engineered for consistent colour. It is heat, scratch and stain resistant. No sealing is required, making it maintenance free. There may be variances in colour and pattern between pictures, in-store samples and your vanity top.

Maintenance

SEALING

Quartz vanity tops are polished products and therefore require no sealing.

CLEANING

Quartz is not only durable, it is also very easy to keep clean. Its non-porous nature also makes it more difficult for bacteria, mold and mildew to grow, which makes it an ideal choice for bathrooms.

Tips for cleaning:

1. Clean with a soft rag and PH-balanced detergent if necessary. The detergent must be non-bleach and non-abrasive.
2. Wipe away liquids, stains and spills as soon as possible.

3. For dried or heavy stains, use a glass cleaner and a non-abrasive sponge. Spray cleaner over the counter and leave for 8 to 10 minutes, then wipe away with the non-scratch sponge.
4. For gum, grease or paint, remove with a plastic knife and then clean the rest with a soft rag.

TO AVOID DAMAGE

Generally, in order to care for Quartz vanity tops, one must avoid quick changes in temperature, hard pressure and scratching or impact.

Tips for avoiding damage:

1. "Thermal shock" (a quick change in temperature) must be avoided. Do not set flat irons, hair dryers, etc., directly on the Quartz surface.
2. Sharp tools must not be used directly on the Quartz surface. Quartz vanity tops are scratch resistant, but not scratch-proof. A forceful hit can chip the vanity top.

Granite Care

About Granite

Granite is a natural material and therefore every vanity top is unique, with its own characteristics. No two pieces are alike. It is heat, scratch and stain resistant, extremely hard and durable, comes pre-sealed and is low maintenance. There may be variances in colour and pattern compared to pictures, in-store samples and your finished vanity top.

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SEALING

Your new Granite top has received one application of sealer. This should repel and prevent liquids from penetrating your Stone Top for years to come and possibly a lifetime. Some stones may never need to be sealed again, whereas some stones may need a second coat immediately. Every piece of natural Granite has its own unique characteristics, including density. The more dense the stone, the less chance it will absorb liquids. All liquids should be cleaned up immediately. If you notice the stone getting darker after it has been washed or if the stone gets darker after water is left standing on the surface, it is time for another coat of sealer.

CLEANING

The old rule of thumb is never to use anything that you would not use on your hands. Never use powdered cleansers or abrasive pads to clean your stone. Even "soft scrub" type cleaners contain pumice, which is powdered volcanic stone, and might damage your stone vanity tops or floors. Never use any product which is acidic; this includes substances like ammonia or many common liquid cleaners such as Windex™. You should always use sealers and cleaning products designed specifically for natural stone. There are excellent stone-friendly (and user-friendly) stone care products available at your local hardware store.

HEAT, SCRATCH AND STAIN RESISTANT

Because it has a very dense grain, granite is nearly impossible to scratch or chip. If soap is left on or drips on the surface of the Granite countertop, it will stain. The stain must be lifted prior to resealing the Granite. It is nearly impervious to weathering from temperature changes, airborne chemicals and chemical erosion. In fact, Granite tanks are often used to store highly caustic chemicals. Granite also harbors no bacteria or radon and with minimal care, it will last forever.

Your Granite top can withstand heat up to 1,200°F. You can set hot objects on your Granite vanity top without worrying about charring or scorching your Granite. However, it is not recommended to place hot objects near seams or joints.

The only things that may scratch your Granite top are diamonds, other pieces of Granite and some green kitchen scrub pads. Granite can only be scratched by materials which are harder than Granite.

If your Granite top chips, it is usually around the sink or near an edge. The chip is usually small and not visible, but you can feel it. This is easy to repair. A colored epoxy is used to fill in the small area. If you did get a larger chip, save the chip so that it can be used to repair your vanity top.