

PORCELAIN SLAB CLEANING INFORMATION

GENERAL INDICATIONS

Slabs are characterized by high chemical inertia and resistance to dirt and stains, for this reason slabs do not require the use of surface impregnating treatments.

Nevertheless, to further facilitate cleaning activities, it is always good practice to remove stains while fresh, avoiding surface encrustations. In this way it will be possible to quickly and easily remove any deposits of staining liquids like coffee, tea or red wine, by rinsing the surface with a sponge and just water.

ORDINARY MAINTENANCE

For daily cleaning of the surface, simply use a damp sponge or microfiber cloth. For regular cleaning, the use of a neutral detergent to be used with a soft sponge or microfiber cloth is normally sufficient, using special spraying dispensers.

PERSISTENT STAINS

If the above cleaning is not sufficient to remove the most persistent encrustations, it is possible to intervene locally as indicated in the table below, using a slightly abrasive sponge then, if necessary, combine the sponge with a degreasing product.

USAGE PRECAUTIONS

Avoid shocks in the most delicate points of the panel such as sides and edges. Do not pour large quantities of water on porcelain countertops, avoid particularly letting the water seep into the mounting holes and critical points, damaging the furniture below. For all cleaning operations, it is recommended to carry out a preventive test on a small part of the material and leave the product on only as necessary.

ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Due to the sophisticated surface, polished and satin finishes, especially in darker colors, require greater care than other slab finishes. In particular, harsh alkaline detergents should not be used especially if left to work over an extended period.

If a polished / satin finish is used in an area prone to excessive spills or dirt, it may be advisable to treat the slabs with a penetrating-type sealer once as time passes. Frequency of treatment should be evaluated according to the environment as well as product's final use classification:

- Light residential
- Residential
- Heavy Residential or Light Commercial
- Commercial
- Heavy Commercial

During the polishing process, microscopic pores are sometimes exposed. Although the pores are shallow, spills can fill them, making standard cleaning procedures inadequate. By using a penetrating-type sealer, microscopic pores are filled, preventing stains from setting in. A penetrating-type sealer is designed only to fill pores, not to coat the tile surface, because as part of the sealing treatment any excess should be removed, filling only exposed porosity. Therefore the polished tile's appearance will not be altered, provided that a recommended sealer is used and applied according to manufacturer's instructions.

RECOMMENDED DETERGENT BY TYPE OF STAIN

TYPE OF STAIN	STAIN REMOVER	RECOMMENDED DETERGENT FOR PERSISTENT STAINS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARBONATED FLAVORED SOFT DRINKS • LEMON • COFFEE • JUICES • ICE CREAM • WINE • GREASE • VINEGAR/OIL 	Neutral detergent	Neutral household detergent
	Cream detergent	Barn Keepers friend soft cleanser
	Alkaline detergent	PS87 (FILA) AQUA MIX STONE CLEAN & SHINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAUCE/KETCHUP 	Neutral detergent	Neutral household detergent
	Cream detergent	Barn Keepers friend soft cleanser PS87 (FILA)
	Alkaline detergent	AQUA MIX STONE CLEAN & SHINE
	Bleach	Bleach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • METAL TRACES 	Neutral detergent	Neutral household detergent
	Acid detergent	Vinegar DETERDEK (FILA) CLR - CALCIUM LIME & RUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIMESCALE DEPOSITS 	Neutral detergent	Neutral household detergent
	Acid detergent	Vinegar DETERDEK (FILA) CLR - CALCIUM LIME & RUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESINS 	Neutral detergent	Neutral household detergent
	Cream cleanser	Barn Keepers friend soft cleanser
	Solvent	GOO ONE GOO OFF Heavy Duty Remover (for tough stain)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PERMANENT MARKER 	Neutral detergent	Neutral household detergent
	Solvent	Denatured alcohol GOO OFF Heavy Duty Remover FILA SOLV

PORCELAIN SLAB TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The kitchen countertop is a very important component and must be chosen carefully, as most food preparation is carried out on it. The purpose of a countertop is not only to complete the kitchen furnishing harmoniously: besides style and design, other characteristics such as resistance, practicality and functionality are important.

The choice of the material to be used is therefore vital and, in the range of materials available on the market, porcelain stoneware is certainly among the best thanks to its technical and aesthetic features. The processing of natural raw materials, combined with the use of leading-edge patented production techniques, makes it possible to obtain high-tech materials characterized by the looks that have always been the exclusive hallmark of quarried marble and stone. Chromatic variations, veining and speckling are thus prized characteristics.

HEAT RESISTANCE

Heat resistance is extremely important for a countertop, since frequent contact with hot pans, coffee pots or utensils could, in some cases, ruin the counter.

Porcelain tile surfaces are resistant to high temperatures and thermal shock in accordance with ASTM C484 - THERMAL SHOCK - RESISTANCE. Slabs fall well within the minimum values imposed by these standards.

SCRATCH RESISTANCE

Due to intensive use, a kitchen worktop runs the risk of scratches and marks caused by pointed or sharp utensils, and also by commonly used rough items. Porcelain tiles are unquestionably the hardest material among those on the market and due to their innate resistance are an excellent choice to prevent this sort of damage.

RESISTANCE TO STAINS AND CORROSION AND EASE OF CLEANING

Porcelain stoneware offers important characteristics such as extreme compactness and non-porosity, which make it the ideal choice for a kitchen top. As this material is impenetrable, even the most difficult stains can be easily removed: not only oil, wine, sauces and coffee, but also acidic substances such as lemon, vinegar or residues of detergents can be cleaned off without any effort.

The environmental impact is reduced as chemical products should be used in limited quantities for cleaning porcelain stoneware surfaces, and this also preserves their original beauty over time.

SURFACE HYGIENE

Scientific evidence shows that very porous materials foster bacterial proliferation more than non-porous materials. As porcelain stoneware is a compact, non-porous material, it is particularly recommended for the surfaces of a kitchen.

Air quality in the home is also very important: that's why it must be noted that porcelain stoneware does not release Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), which are very harmful for a person's health; therefore, it is a safe material that can be appropriately used in a kitchen.