

HOME CARE GUIDE

Bath

Countertops

Maintenance

Follow these maintenance suggestions for your bathroom countertops.

Plastic laminate countertops

Plastic laminate countertops are fairly easy to maintain. Here are some ways to increase their life and prolong their beauty.

- Wipe off spots, glass rings, and other spills with a damp cloth and mild soap. Don't let water stand on the seams or backsplash.
- Be careful not to do anything that will disturb the bond between the wood and the plastic.
- Be especially careful with manicure equipment and bathroom appliances to avoid damaging the laminate with heat. Also, cigarette burns are almost impossible to remove without professional assistance.
- Prevent damage from leaks by monitoring the condition of all caulk on countertops and vanity tops. Reapply the caulk if it separates or deteriorates.

CAUTION!

Don't sit or stand on countertops. Excessive weight can cause warping and drawer malfunction and can even cause the top to pull away from the wall.

See also: [*Interior caulk*](#)

Solid surface countertops

- Clean up spills immediately using soap and water or a commercially available solid surface cleaner. Don't use abrasive pads; they'll scratch or dull the polished finish. After cleaning, wipe the area completely dry to prevent a film from building up on the surface.
- Avoid placing hot items directly on the surface. Although solid surface countertops are heat-resistant, it's a good idea to minimize direct heat exposure.
- Disinfect the surface by wiping it with diluted household bleach. Use 1 part water to 1 part bleach. Rinse it thoroughly with water and wipe it completely dry.
- Use denatured alcohol to remove stains caused by cosmetics. Flush the surface with soapy water when the stains are gone, and wipe it dry.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to acetones, which are found in nail polish remover. If acetones come in contact with the countertop, flush the surface thoroughly with soapy water.

SERVICE!

A licensed contractor can polish solid surface countertops to remove some stains, burns, and scratches.

Natural stone countertops

- Clean the surface with a few drops of neutral cleaner or stone soap and warm water after each use. Don't use abrasive pads; they'll scratch or dull the polished finish.
- Clean up spills immediately using any high-quality, non-abrasive bathroom cleaner. After cleaning, wipe the area completely dry to prevent a film from building up on the surface.
- Remove hard water minerals with a mild ammonia solution of 1 tablespoon of ammonia to 1 quart of water.
- Dust the countertop regularly.
- Repair chips, scratches, burns, and stains using the manufacturer's recommended techniques, or consult a professional.

TIP!

Check with the manufacturer to find out whether or not you should have your stone countertops sealed to prevent staining.

CAUTION!

Don't use steel wool, vinegar, polish, or liquids containing acid on the surface.

Tile countertops

See: [*Tile and grout*](#)