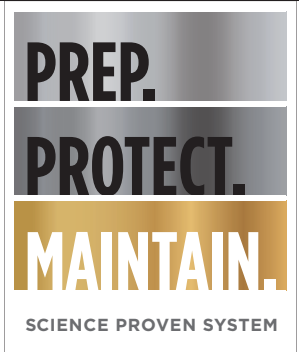


SEALERS 101 - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Some basic knowledge of sealers can be important to the maintenance of surfaces and help you to pre-empt and prevent problems from occurring.

Impregnating / Penetrating Sealers - What they do and don't do

- Impregnating sealers work by repelling water, or, water and oil, not by blocking the pores of the material or creating a physical barrier. Because of this:
 1. Impregnators cannot stop acid etching of acid sensitive surfaces including the following stones: Marble, limestone, travertine and onyx. These stones contain calcite, a form of calcium, which reacts and dissolves on contact with acids, even mild acids such as lemon juice, cola and wine. In populated urban areas, rain can be acidic. The use of acid sensitive materials outdoors is not recommended as discoloration and acid damage may occur.
 2. Impregnators do not make surfaces impervious to staining. Given enough time, or enough pressure, water and oil can penetrate, so spills should be wiped up in a timely manner.
 3. Impregnators do not provide a physical barrier and therefore do not provide protection from physical wear and tear, scuff marks or dirt being ground into the texture or pits of rough surfaces.



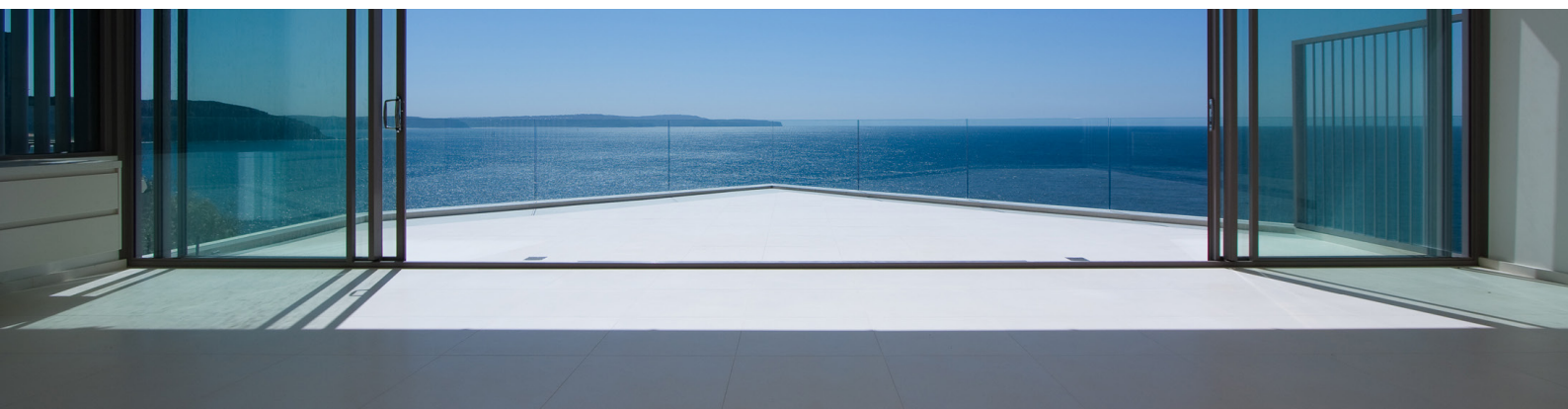
What makes Stain-Proof™ impregnators special?

1. Stain-Proof Premium Impregnating Sealer (previously known as: Stain-Proof™ Original), Dense Stone Impregnating Sealer (previously known as: Stain-Proof™ Plus) & Waterborne Dense Stone Sealer (previously known as: MetaCrème™) are formulated using Stain-Proof's unique sealing technology – our sealer molecules are approximately 400+ times smaller than in other impregnators and penetrate much further into the pores to form a much deeper water and oil repellent barrier. This allows Stain-Proof impregnators to provide more than stain repellence, including premium protection against efflorescence, salt / freeze-thaw spalling and picture framing.
2. Stain-Proof sealers form permanent chemical bonds inside the pores, becoming part of the internal molecular structure of the treated material for superior longevity and protection and resistance to cleaning and UV light.
3. Stain-Proof sealers have huge active ingredient levels – up to 70%; compared to 5-10% for common impregnators

Topical sealers (coatings)

Topical coatings form an airtight physical barrier over surfaces. While this physical barrier provides excellent stain protection, there are many drawbacks to using topical sealers, which have seen the popularity of coatings dwindle over the last 50+ years in favor of impregnators:

1. Topical sealers can radically change the look / color of the surface material.
2. Topical sealers are generally slippery when wet and additives to increase slip resistance can help dirt collect and make cleaning difficult.
3. Topical sealers are not breathable, so potentially damaging moisture, which wicks up through the substrate, is trapped and prevented from evaporating and escaping.
4. Mold can grow, or efflorescence can collect under a coating, where you can't get to it to clean it away.
5. Topical sealers can yellow, whiten, crack, craze or peel over time and particularly break down under UV light.
6. Topical sealers wear through, particularly in high traffic areas and the surface has to be completely stripped for the sealer to be re-applied, a time consuming and expensive procedure.



After sealing your countertop with a Stain-Proof® world leading permanent impregnating sealer for premium stain protection, keep it looking beautiful for years to come, with the proper care.

PREP.
PROTECT.
MAINTAIN.
SCIENCE PROVEN SYSTEM

Spills should be wiped up as soon as possible

Impregnating sealers work by repelling liquids rather than blocking the pores of the stone/concrete. The reason is so that air can still move through the pores, allowing the material to ‘breathe’ naturally. It is the best technology available to protect against staining while preserving the look and natural integrity of your surface.

Because the pores of your stone/concrete countertop remain open, the surface is not immune from staining, but the sealer will give you plenty of time to clean up liquids before they absorb into the pores and stain. Using coasters for drinks is also recommended.

For daily cleaning, we recommend that you use Stain-Proof Daily Countertop Spray

Stain-Proof Daily Countertop Spray is a pH neutral cleaner specially designed for natural stone countertops. Daily Countertop Spray is food safe, provides a mild, natural citrus scent, and contains a tiny amount of invisible sealer to increase protection. If you do not have a specialist cleaning product, warm water and a small amount of dishwashing detergent can be used.

For more stubborn grime, ‘spring’ cleaning, or Stain removal, use Stain-Proof Alkaline Cleaner and Daily Floor Cleaner

Stain-Proof Alkaline Cleaner (previously known as Oxy-Klenza™) is a safe, powerful, oxygen based, alkaline cleaner. Stain-Proof Daily Floor Cleaner is a natural active enzyme cleaner that cleans general grime and stains caused by oil, mold, food and beverages. **Acidic cleaners should never be used.**



PLEASE NOTE:

1. Impregnating sealers will NOT prevent surface etching. It is important to find out if your countertop is made from marble, limestone, onyx, travertine, or other acid sensitive materials. If so, it is important to wipe up spills from acidic substances (including citrus juice, vinegar, cola and wine) immediately, before acid etching occurs.
2. Impregnating sealers repel water and oil but DO NOT repel solvent based liquids, e.g. solvent based inks.
3. DO NOT leave wet trays, cutting boards, bowls, vases, and similar things on your surface. For example, the water underneath a wet plastic tray will evaporate very slowly, and if left for days or weeks might stain the surface.

INDOOR SURFACES - COUNTERTOPS

NATURAL STONE COUNTERTOPS

General recommendations

- **Spills should be wiped up as soon as possible**
Impregnating sealers work by repelling liquids rather than blocking the pores of the stone / concrete. The reason is so that air can still move through the pores allowing the material to 'breathe' naturally. It is the best technology available to protect against staining while preserving the look and natural integrity of your surface. Because the pores of your stone / concrete countertop remain open, the surface is not immune from staining, but the sealer will give you plenty of time to clean up liquids before they absorb into the pores and stain. Using coasters for drinks is also recommended.
- **Please note:** Impregnating sealers **will NOT prevent surface etching**. It is important to find out if your countertop is made from marble, limestone, onyx, travertine, or other acid sensitive materials. If so, it is important to wipe up spills from acidic substances (including citrus juice, vinegar, cola and wine) immediately, before acid etching occurs. Impregnating sealers repel water and oil but **DO NOT repel solvent based liquids, e.g. solvent based inks**.
- DO NOT leave **wet** trays, cutting boards, bowls, vases, and similar things on your surface. For example, the water underneath a wet plastic tray will evaporate very slowly, and if left for days or weeks might stain the surface.

Stain removal

Countertops are usually made from dense stones and a special sort of poultice is recommended which will allow the cleaner to penetrate the tiny pores, break down the stain and draw it out of the pores. Kitchen countertop stains are often oil stains, and old congealed / dried oil takes time to break down.

ALKALINE CLEANER – PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS OXY-KLENZA™

CLOSED POULTICE METHOD:

You will need the following:

1. Stain-Proof Alkaline Cleaner
2. Some squares of damp paper towel
3. Plastic wrap
4. A container or bowl to mix up an Alkaline Cleaner paste
5. A spatula or spoon for mixing and applying the paste
6. A roll of removable painter's masking tape (the blue removable 3M tape is recommended as it is less likely to leave a glue stain).
7. Clean cloths and plenty of fresh water

Method

If you have any particularly difficult stains to remove from a dense stone countertop, it is best to use a closed poultice.

1. Mix plenty of Alkaline Cleaner powder and a little water to make a thick paste (moist, not wet).
2. Spread the paste thickly over the stain/s.
3. Cover the paste with a damp (not wet) square of paper towel.
4. Cover the paper towel with a square of plastic wrap, push it down so there is no air under the plastic and tape all four sides of the plastic square to the countertop so it is airtight.
5. Leave the poultice to work for 24 hours.
6. Remove the plastic and paper towel and dispose of as much of the paste as possible (using the spatula, spoon etc).
7. Rinse the area well with a cloth and plenty of fresh water until all of the cleaner residue is removed.
8. Once the area is dry, if there is still some staining left, repeat the process.

DAILY COUNTERTOP CLEANER

For regular cleaning, we recommend that you use Stain-Proof™ Daily Countertop Cleaner. Daily Countertop Cleaner is a pH neutral cleaner specially designed for natural stone countertops. Daily Countertop Cleaner is food safe, provides a mild, natural citrus scent, and contains a tiny amount of invisible sealer to increase protection. If you do not have a specialist cleaning product, warm water and a small amount of dishwashing detergent can be used.

