

# Silestone Quartz Care and Maintenance



A big advantage of Silestone quartz surfaces is that it is easy to keep clean and maintain. In most cases it just needs to be wiped over with a dry cloth to remove the dirt. Instructions are given below for enjoying your Silestone quartz countertop in optimum condition.

## Silestone Maintenance

For Silestone Quartz with a polished finish, we recommend you use a mild household cleaner, such as 409, Fantastic, Lysol or Windex. In case of stubborn spills or stains, soak the area for up to 10 minutes with one of the above cleaners and vigorously wipe away with a non scratch Scotch Brite pad.

Silestone Leather does show daily living more frequently and therefore requires more daily maintenance than other Silestone Quartz products. For your daily cleaning routine, we recommend Countertop Magic. Follow instructions on bottle of cleaner.

The natural quartz in Silestone makes it the toughest interior surface available on the market. It resists scratching, staining and scorching better than any other natural stone or solid surface. Do avoid excessive force or pressure because that may mar or chip the surface. Don't worry about spills from coffee, wine, lemon juice, olive oil, vinegar, makeup and many other common household products; just avoid harsh chemicals. And don't worry about dropping a lit match onto your Silestone countertop; it won't scorch. But, use trivets when placing any hot items to avoid thermal shock.

## Advanced Cleaning and Precautions

### **Grease stains and routine cleaning.**

For grease stains apply a small amount of 409, Windex, or a common house-hold cleaner to the stain and rub with a scouring pad (e.g. Scotch-Brite) until it disappears. Rinse immediately with water.

### **Limescale stains (marks left by glasses, etc.).**

Sprinkle hydrochloric acid on the countertop surface and leave to work for one minute. Rinse with water. Follow the recommendations for use given by the hydrochloric acid manufacturer. Do not use on any products (taps, sink, etc.) other than the countertop itself since it might damage their finish.

### **Silicon stains.**

Use a knife and a drop of solvent (without any dichloromethane, methylene dichloride, dichloramine in its composition). Rinse with water.

### **Difficult Stains.**

For difficult stains, sprinkle 409, Windex, or a common house-hold cleaner on the affected area of the Silestone product for 2 minutes and then rub vigorously with a scouring pad (like Scotch-Brite). Then rinse generously with water.

### **Loss of sheen.**

Loss of sheen on the surface of the Silestone countertop may be due to the use of products (waxes, sprays, sealants, etc.) to try to bring out its lustre, although these products lose their effect over time. This lack of sheen therefore has nothing to do with the original mechanical sheen of the product when it leaves the factory. To recover this non-natural sheen, a multi-purpose furniture spray that is suitable for the countertop can be used.

### **Precautions**

#### **Do not place Silestone outdoors or in places with UV lighting.**

- Over the years the color and shade of Silestone products may suffer from the effect of the sun's rays.

#### **Do not use water repellents or sealants to bring out the lustre.**

- Once it has been installed, the sheen on Silestone is the natural lustre of the product itself.
- Sealants and water repellents provide an artificial, ephemeral shine.
- Do not use paint strippers, caustic soda, or products with a ph of more than 10.
- If bleach or solvent is used, it should be diluted with water and never left in permanent contact with the product.

#### **Bleach and solvent can continue to affect the product 12 hours later.**

- Do not use chlorine-based products like dichloromethane (present in paint stripper)
- The surface of the material should not be re-polished - either on floors or on a countertop.
- Do not use degreasing agents such as those used in oven cleaners.
- Keep Silestone separate from sources of heat (deep-fat fryers, etc.).

Although Silestone can withstand high temperatures for short periods of time, its performance varies with respect to different factors like thickness, color, location, etc. For this reason, it is not recommended that the product be exposed to sustained contact with a heat source, nor should hot saucepans, frying pans, deep-fat fryers, etc be placed on it. The use of a hot pad or trivet is recommended in such situations.

We always recommend placing hot objects on top of hot pads.

## **Resistance to Chemicals**

**High resistance:** Acids, Oils, Coffee, Wine, Soft Drinks, etc.

**Do not use under any circumstance:** Hydrofluoric acid, Dichloromethane, NaOH - caustic soda, paint strippers

**Bleach:** Do not use for maintenance. When this product remains on the surface for more than 12 hours, it may lose its sheen.

**Alkaline cleaning products with Ph>12:** Do not use for maintenance: when this product remains on the surface for more than 12 hours, it may lose its sheen.

**Trichloroethylene:** This may be used to remove a specific stain. After scrubbing, wipe off the product with clean water.

**Acetone:** This may be used to remove a specific stain. After scrubbing, wipe off the product with clean water.

**Paint thinners:** This may be used to remove a specific stain. After scrubbing, wipe off the product with clean water.