

## STONE CARE TIPS

Clean food and liquid spills ASAP with absorbent cloth. Lift food straight up and blot liquids. Never wipe or smear.

Never use abrasive cleaners.

Never use cleaners that contain acids (bowl cleaners, tile & tub cleaner, etc.).

Never clean with bleach or ammonia.

Avoid setting hot pans or dishes directly on the stone.

Avoid hot oil and grease splatters and spills. Even when properly impregnated, some stones could be adversely affected.

Use napkins or coasters under glasses.

Use good mats or rugs at outside doorways.

Allow mud to dry before attempting to remove from stone. Wet mud will smear and increase the danger of staining.

Do not mop floors with only water. This could possibly leave hard water/mineral deposits.

Do not use wood furniture spray on furniture with stone accents. Overspray may be harmful to stone surfaces.

Do not attempt to remove etch marks from marble. Contact GCS&M Co. for help when refinishing is needed.

Natural stone is the most durable and functional hard surface available but, like carpet, wood and even synthetic surfaces, **PROPER CARE IS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN ITS MAXIMUM BEAUTY.** Common sense care and caution will only enhance your enjoyment of the stone.

In selecting stone for your home you have chosen a product with **BEAUTY, RICHNESS and STYLE** that will last for generations.



This brochure was written by GranQuartz L.P. in conjunction with Genesee Cut Stone & Marble Co. and is intended to be an informational guide for your convenience.

Compliments of

### **GENESEEE CUT STONE & MARBLE CO.**

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*Proudly serving your  
community since 1954.*

# Home Owner's Guide to Granite and Marble

What you should  
know about  
selection and care



**GranQuartz**  
Stone Care Systems  
Products for Restoring, Protecting, Cleaning and  
Maintaining Stone, Terrazzo, Masonry and  
Ceramic Surfaces

**THE PRODUCTS RECOMMENDED ARE THE  
HIGHEST QUALITY AVAILABLE ANYWHERE.**

## NATURAL STONE

Natural Stone is a lifetime investment in beauty and durability that is unsurpassed by any other hard surface material. Granite and marble are the most common natural stones for residential use because of their wide range of colors, their durability and ability to be polished to a natural brilliance that cannot be duplicated by other materials. Other stones that are available include limestone, travertine, serpentine, slate, quartzite, onyx, sandstone, and agglomerated stone. Granite and marble account for the majority of applications and each has its own specific characteristics that lend each stone to particular uses.

This brochure explains the differences and advantages of both and offers suggestions on the appropriate stone for different applications. Care recommendations are also provided. The care products mentioned are available from Genesee Cut Stone & Marble Co. We have researched many care products to insure that only the highest quality, safest and most effective products are offered to you.

GranQuartz has been committed to supplying the very best products to the natural stone industry for over 30 years and their Stone Care Systems product line is a continuation of that commitment.



## GRANITE

Granite is harder, more durable and much less porous than marble and because no calcium carbonate is present, it can withstand acidic substance contact without fear of damaging the natural polish. Under most conditions granite will not require future restoration but the procedure can be done if needed. Because of these characteristics, granite is particularly well-suited for kitchen countertops, bar tops and dining tables.

Like marble, granite originates from many countries around the world and is widely produced here in North America. Domestic granite is as colorful and durable as imported granite and is used in many applications. GCS&M Co. will guide your selection process based upon your needs and desires.

Although granite does not offer all the decorative choices of marble, it does reflect good taste and wise decision making. Granite is rich, luxurious and comes in a broad selection of colors. Unlike marble, granite normally does not exhibit veining. It does, however, have a prominent texture or grain. In fact, the word granite comes from the Latin word meaning grain.

Granite is formed quite differently than marble. It is the result of subsurface molten magma materials that cooled very slowly forming extremely hard and dense rock. The term applied to this process is igneous. Although granites are generally classified as igneous and not metamorphic, there are indications they are metamorphosed, resulting in unique color and grain groupings that may even appear as veins. Granites are classified as fine-grained, medium-grained and coarse-grained and reflect the mixture of the four prominent minerals - feldspar, quartz, mica and hornblende. Coloring in granite is governed largely by feldspar which is usually the most abundant mineral. The colors and inherent shading of granite is a function of the mixture of the other three minerals. Uniformity of color and grain are a true feature of granite. Colors run from nearly white to gray, green, pink, red and black.

Available finishes for granite are generally the same as marble - polished (smooth surface that naturally reflects light), honed (smooth and scratch-free with very little or no light reflection) and textured (rough to the touch, with thermal or flamed finishes as the most common).

Caring for granite is important primarily because of your desire for cleanliness. Granite is truly a worry-free surface in terms of scratching, chipping and etching but, because it is a porous material, it must be protected from permanent stains. GCS&M Co. can supply a high quality impregnator (sealer) specifically designed to offer maximum protection while leaving your stone completely natural in appearance. We recommend **GranQuartz Stone Care Systems 314P Premium Impregnator** for all granite surfaces and for all applications. For cleaning of polished granite flooring, use **515C Intensive Cleaner**, and for honed granite flooring, use **214M Daily Cleaner/Conditioner**. For regular care of furniture and countertops, use **GCSM 3-in-1 Countertop Cleaner/Polisher/Protector**.

## MARBLE

Marble is particularly well-suited for decorative applications like fireplace surrounds, shower walls, floors and furniture. Marble is softer and more porous than granite. Because of the high calcium carbonate content of marble, polish restoration is easily accomplished, and should be expected after many years of use. Marble is generally not recommended for surfaces that will come in contact with acidic substances like fruit juices and alcoholic beverages because of the danger of etching. Etching is the chemical reaction that occurs when acids contact the calcium carbonate in marble. Etches are immediate and semi-permanent but can be removed by a marble restoration specialist.

Marble originates from many countries around the world and was formed in the earth over millions of years through heat and pressure. The geological term used for the marble formation process is called metamorphism. The vast range of colors and veining features are a result of substances that were introduced during the formation process.

- Pinks, reds, yellows and browns are due to the presence of iron oxides.
- Grays, blue-grays and blacks are a result of bituminous material.
- Greens and shades of green are caused by silicates, chlorides and mica.

Available finishes for marble are polished (smooth surface that naturally and clearly reflects light), honed (smooth and scratch-free surface with very little or no light reflection), textured (rough to the touch) and tumbled (neither smooth nor rough but intentionally made to appear aged or antiqued).

Caring for marble surfaces is just as important as caring for hardwood, carpet or metal. Marble is a porous material and may absorb stains from oils and other liquids like coffee, wine, etc. To protect your marble from permanent stains, GCS&M Co. sells a high quality impregnator (sealer) specifically designed to offer maximum protection while leaving your stone completely natural in appearance. We recommend **GranQuartz Stone Care Systems 314P Premium Impregnator** for all marble surfaces and for all applications. For cleaning of polished marble flooring, use **515C Intensive Cleaner**; and for honed marble flooring, use **214M Daily Cleaner/Conditioner**. For regular care of furniture and countertops, use **GCSM 3-in-1 Countertop Cleaner/Polisher/Protector**.