

SM QUARTZ® INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF COUNTERTOPS

HONED, BRUSHED, WAVE AND METROPOLIS FINISHES

POST-FABRICATION CLEANING

Once the slabs have been fabricated, remove any residue with water and a clean cloth. Thoroughly dry the surface.

Deep clean the surface by spraying an acidic or slightly alkaline pH detergent specifically designed for quartz based engineered stones, and consistently spread it with a non-abrasive sponge. Allow the detergent to work for 5 minutes, then thoroughly rinse with water until the detergent has been completely removed. Remove the excess water with a cloth and allow to dry.

If the surface is dull or shows dull areas after this process, rinse again and allow to dry. If the surface still shows dirt or dull areas, repeat the whole deep cleaning process.

Quartz surfaces containing mother of pearl chips should not be cleaned with acidic detergents that will damage the mother of pearl.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

The technical features of the products of the Metropolis and Wave series and of those with a brushed or honed finish are the same as those of materials with a polished finish and therefore they are acid and scratch resistant with virtually no absorption of liquids.

All SM QUARTZ® slabs leave the factory without any kind of protective surface treatment.

Due to greater surface roughness, textured surfaces can be treated with products specifically for quartz agglomerate, which protect it against oily and aqueous stains and make cleaning easier. Neutral protective treatments are available on the market, which leave the original colour unaltered, as well as toners that enhance it.

If the counter is intended for contact with food, we recommend using suitable treatments.

CLEANING AFTER INSTALLATION

During the installation mask the joints and insure that the silicone will not drip or flow out of joints onto the surface.

Only use a neutral silicone to install the countertop. Remove the excess hardened silicone with a new razor blade, being careful not to scratch the surface.

After all assembly operations have been completed, clean the counter thoroughly with a neutral or slightly acidic detergent specifically for quartz-resin agglomerates.

Quartz surfaces containing mother of pearl chips shall not be cleaned with acidic detergents that will damage the mother of pearl.

Be careful in cleaning the delicate metallic pieces and other acid-sensitive materials that may be in the quartz tops.

DAILY CLEANING

The daily cleaning of SM QUARTZ® surfaces is done using a damp cloth or paper towel and, if needed, a small quantity of neutral or slightly acidic pH detergent specifically designed for the daily cleaning of quartz based engineered stone surfaces.

Spread the detergent on the surface and let it work for some seconds, rinse with a cloth or water, then carefully dry the surface.

Compared to polished surfaces, honed or textured surfaces tend to get dirty more easily and therefore, if limescale deposits, fingerprints, metallic marks or other types of stains are present, more thorough cleaning may be required.

Quartz surfaces containing mother of pearl chips shall not be cleaned with acidic detergents that will damage the mother of pearl.

Be careful in cleaning the delicate metallic pieces and other acid-sensitive materials that may be in the quartz tops.

CLEANING DIFFICULT STAINS

SM QUARTZ® countertops are highly resistant to staining. However, cleaning difficult stains may require special action, especially if these stains are not removed promptly.

Deep clean the surface by spraying an acidic or slightly alkaline pH detergent specifically designed for deep cleaning quartz based engineered stone countertops, and consistently spread it with a non-abrasive cloth (such as 3M Scotch-Brite). Allow the detergent to work for 5 minutes, then thoroughly rinse with water until the detergent has been completely removed. Remove the excess water with a cloth and dry.

Should the stain not be completely removed, repeat the whole process.

If the counter has been treated with a protective enhancer, any thorough cleaning may have removed the treatment as well, highlighting a lighter area especially on dark surfaces.

To make the colour of the surface even again, the toner should be applied again, if necessary, after removing the old treatment from the entire counter.

Quartz surfaces containing mother of pearl chips should be cleaned with neutral pH detergents only. Using acid detergent will damage the mother of pearl.

Be careful in cleaning the delicate metallic pieces and other acid-sensitive materials that may be in the quartz tops.

PREVENTING DAMAGES CAUSED BY THERMAL SHOCK OR IMPACT

SM QUARTZ® surfaces are heat resistant and can withstand a limited exposure to pots, pans or dishes at normal cooking temperature without visible damages.

Although SM QUARTZ® surfaces show higher heat resistance than any other stone countertop, they can be damaged by sudden and extreme thermal shocks. We recommend the use of trivets to avoid continued exposure of SM QUARTZ® surfaces to sources of heat.

SM QUARTZ® surfaces are highly scratch resistant, but are not scratch proof. We recommend the use of cutting boards when cutting and preparing food.

CHEMICALS TO BE AVOIDED

Avoid exposing SM QUARTZ® to chemicals and solvents, especially paint removers, that might contain trichlorethane and methylene chloride.

Keep solvents, acetone, alcohol, thinners, detergents containing bleach, laundry bluing, highly alkaline liquids such as bleach, caustic soda or oven cleaners, acids, oily soaps, descalers, markers or ink, abrasive and micro-abrasive detergents away from the surface. Should any of the above listed liquids drip on the quartz surface, remove it immediately and thoroughly rinse with water.

Even though an occasion exposure to alkaline products does not damage SM QUARTZ® surfaces, highly alkaline detergents (high pH) are not recommended for daily cleaning. The use of highly alkaline detergents may damage the surface of the material.

Quartz surfaces containing mother of pearl chips shall be cleaned with neutral pH

detergents only. Using acid detergent will damage the mother of pearl.

Be careful in cleaning the delicate metallic pieces and other acid-sensitive materials that may be in the quartz tops.

It is recommended to use only a neutral silicone to install the countertop.

DETERGENTS TESTED AND APPROVED BY SANTAMARGHERITA R&D

Deep cleaning detergents (acid or slightly alkaline pH):

DRAGO PULISAN ANTICALCARE	Guaber S.r.l.
FILAVIA BAGNO	Fila Industria Chimica S.p.A.
LEM 3	Bellinzoni S.r.l.
QUARTZ CLEANER	Faber Chimica S.r.l.

Daily cleaning (neutral or slightly acid pH):

BRIO TOP	Tenax S.p.A.
FILA REFRESH	Fila Industria Chimica S.p.A.
LEM 3*	Bellinzoni S.r.l.
TOP CLEANER	Faber Chimica S.r.l.

**Slightly alkaline pH product.

Notes: Drago Pulisan Anticalcare, Filavia Bagno, Fila Refresh, Brio Top, Quartz Cleaner, Top Cleaner tested not diluted
LEM 3 tested at 1:10 dilution

The detergents must be used at the dilution suggested by the manufacturer.

COMMONLY USED PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Below is a list of some products, for information purposes only, suitable for contact with food, which are used to treat textured surfaces.

Neutral treatments:

IDEA HP
MP 90
SKUDO

Bellinzoni S.r.l.
Fila Industria Chimica S.p.A.
Tenax S.p.A.

Enhancing treatments:

IDEA QUARTZ
QUARTZ TONER
STONE PLUS
DEEP ENHANCER

Bellinzoni S.r.l.
Tenax S.p.A.
Fila Industria Chimica S.p.A.
Faber Chimica S.r.l.

Note: Apply the treatments by following the manufacturer's instructions.

IMPORTANT! - The content of this recommendation is based on our experience. Although we strive for thoroughness and accuracy of the information we provide, **SANTAMARGHERITA®** this is not a warranty and we can't take any responsibility for the exactness and applicability of this document.