

# Soapstone Care and Maintenance

Soapstone is composed primarily of talc (hence the "soapy" feel), as well as magnesium, mica, quartz, chlorite and iron. Unlike other stones, soapstone is stain resistant, and does not require a sealant. It is recommended that soapstone be finished with mineral oil or wax to maintain its natural luster.

Here are a few basic tips for soapstone countertop cleaning and care:

- Clean up spills immediately-especially oil and acidic foods, such as tomato sauce, wine, coffee, fruit juice and soda.
- Soapstone is non-reactive to chemicals, acids and heat. Although a stone cleaner is recommended to maintain the countertops, any mild household cleaner can be used to clean the countertop. However, using strong cleaners will remove the oil from the stone and may require the stone to be re-oiled more frequently.
- Using a knife on your soapstone countertops can damage the soapstone and the knife. Although most blemishes can be removed, a cutting board should be used to maintain the soapstone's appearance.
- Stains and blemishes are usually only on the surface of the soapstone, and can be removed with gentle sanding.
- The application of mineral oil can reduce the appearance of scratches, as well as preserve the color of your soapstone.