



## **Maintenance Tips and Tricks**

### Cleaning The Different Materials & Hardware

1. Melamine Carcase
2. Laminate benchtops
3. Manufactured stone benchtops
4. Polyurethane doors
5. Timber and veneer doors
6. Melamine doors
7. Acrylic doors
8. Vinyl vacuum formed doors
9. Aluminium kickboards
10. PVC covered kickboards
11. Stainless Steel splashbacks
12. Acrylic Splashbacks
13. Glass Splashbacks
14. Hinges, Handles and Drawer Runners

## 1. Melamine carcass material

Warm soapy water or Windex is recommended for cleaning melamine surfaces. Do not use an abrasive cleaner as this will destroy the waxy overlay and dull the surface. Keeping your surfaces clean is easy. Regular cleaning simply involves wiping with a clean, damp cloth. For spills and stains the most important thing is to catch the stain early. Wiping it with hot soapy water is the first thing to try. Never use abrasive cleaners, wire wool scourer pads, copper cleaner pads or sandpaper on your surfaces.

## 2. Laminate benchtops

Avoid scourers and abrasives as they will damage the surface.

Don't place hot objects, electrical appliances or pots straight from the oven or cooker onto your laminate surface.

Don't cut on the laminate surface.

Keep waxes and polishes well away as they dull the natural shine.

Do not use strongly acidic, alkaline cleaners or bleach for normal cleaning as these might etch the surface.

- **General Care – Streaks**

Streaky marks sometimes show on dark colours after cleaning. An all-purpose cleaner such as Windex spray cleaner or Ajax Spray n Wipe usually removes them.

- **General Care – Grease**

Using a mild dishwashing detergent in water will remove greasy marks. Dab, wait and wipe away. Finish with an all-purpose cleaner such as Windex spray cleaner or Ajax Spray n Wipe.

- **General Care – Spills**

Laminate surfaces resist staining from most household chemicals. With some accidental spills however, prompt action is essential. Wipe off beetroot, grape and berry juices, first aid preparations, concentrated bleach, oven cleaners, dishwasher detergents, artificial dyes, hair colouring and solvent based pen ink immediately. Specialty glues such as Super Glue must also be removed straight away with acetone (nail polish remover).

- **General Care – Stains**

If the stain won't budge with Extra Strength Windex, try methylated spirits or dab the stain with a diluted bleach mixture (1 part bleach to 8 parts water); leave for 3 minutes then wash off with water and dry. Finish off with Extra Strength Windex. Only as a last resort if a stain persists try 2 or 3 rubs with a crème cleanser or white toothpaste, wash and dry. Please note that bleach or these abrasive cleaners may irreversibly damage the laminate surface.

- **General Care – Scratches**

Laminate surfaces will withstand normal wear and tear, but can be damaged by scratching or cutting with utensils, knives and unglazed pottery. Darker colours will show scratches more readily than lighter colours. In general, dark colours and high gloss surfaces require more care and maintenance than lighter colours or lower gloss colours. To minimise scratching, always place and lift objects from the surface – never drag or slide them across the surface.

### 3. Manufactured Stone Benchtops

- Maintenance

Its hard, nonporous surface makes CaesarStone simple to clean. In most cases, soap and water or a mild detergent is all that is required to maintain its luster. If required, use a non-abrasive cleaning product such as Soft Scrub® Gel with Bleach Cleanser or Comet® Soft Cleanser Scratch Free Cream with Bleach and a Scotch-Brite® Blue pad. Do not hesitate to apply the necessary pressure needed to rub out any marks. Adhered materials like food, gum, nail polish, or dried paint can be scraped away with a plastic putty knife; metal marks left by the putty knife can be removed with Soft Scrub® Gel with Bleach or Comet® Soft Cleanser Scratch Free Cream with Bleach and a Scotch-Brite® Blue pad. Thoroughly rinse the surface with clean water to remove residue. While CaesarStone does not require sealants or waxes to maintain its lustre, occasional cleansing with Soft Scrub® Gel with Bleach or Comet® Soft Cleanser Scratch Free Cream with Bleach will keep the quartz surfacing looking its best.

Quantum Quartz® is a high quality solid non porous surface product that is resistant to scratches, heat and stain however, Quantum Quartz® is not heat, stain and scratch proof. Quantum Quartz® requires minimum maintenance and the following care and maintenance guidelines will help to keep the surface in immaculate condition for years.

General routine care and maintenance;

Quantum Quartz® is highly resistant to stains caused by fruit juices, liquid food colouring, coffee, tea, wine, grapes, soft drinks, paints, nail polish and remover, automotive fluids, and permanent markers. If accidentally any of the above is spilt on the top / floor, wipe off the stained area with any commonly available multi-purpose cleaner or household detergent and then with ordinary water immediately. For more stubborn spills and stains, repeat the procedure several times and use a household scouring pad to remove the stain. It is possible that some of the stubborn stains may leave a light mark or very slight discolouration on the stones.

The high gloss finish and extremely low moisture absorption of Quantum Quartz® fully eliminates the need for any sealing.

- Preventing damage to bench tops from heat

Quantum Quartz® is designed and manufactured to withstand moderate heat and the product is not heat proof. The Thermal -shock resistance is increased with the increase of the used thickness of Quantum Quartz®, a slab with the thickness of 30 mm is far more resistant than a 10 mm slab Quantum Quartz® surface. Like any other composite material, Quantum Quartz® may be damaged by a sudden or lasting exposure to high temperatures, mainly at the edges and cut- outs of the product resulting in cracks. To prevent thermal shock, discolouration or other damages, it is necessary to use insulating pads when putting hot objects aside and not to expose the surface to open flames and prolonged contact with very hot pots. We always recommend using a hot pad or trivet, especially when using cooking units such as electric frying pans, crock pots, or roaster ovens.

- **Use of common kitchen implements**

Common kitchen implements including sharp knives won't harm the Quantum Quartz®, as they are made up of pure natural quartz. Continued use of kitchen knives on the bench tops could dull the polished surface. Care should be exercised when moving heavy objects and avoid dropping heavy kitchen tools.

- **Removing foreign materials**

If accidentally food, chewing gum, nail polish, paint or any other foreign matter found sticking to the top / floor, simply scrape away the same with a sharp blade or sharp plastic scraper. The metal surface used in scraping the dirt may leave grey metal marks on the surface, and ordinary scouring pads can easily remove them. Wash and rinse the surface in the normal way with water.

- **Exposure to chemicals and solvents**

Quantum Quartz® can be permanently damaged by prolonged exposure to strong chemicals and solvents. It is advisable not to use hydro fluoric acid, any products containing trichlorethane or methylene chloride and paint strippers.

- **Exposure to direct sunlight**

Quantum Quartz® slabs and tiles when exposed to direct sunlight may result in colour change and warping, it is advisable to avoid direct sunlight over a prolonged period on the surfaces.

- **Maintenance of floors**

Dust, grit and barrier materials from the floors should be removed on a daily basis by sweeping with a soft brush and when necessary by use of machine. Sand can scratch the Quartz based Tile floors and the surfaces should be always kept free from dust, sand and soil. Quantum Quartz® surfaces can be easily cleaned with warm water and mild household detergent, using a standard mop. Make sure the floor is completely dry before allowing people to walk on it.

- **Maintenance of honed finish**

Honed finish surfaces require additional daily maintenance and care than the polished surfaces. The area exposed on a honed finish is more than the polished surface; hence any dirt, markings and scratches would be more obvious on a honed finish surface than on a polished surface. These markings can be removed using non abrasive cleaning products.

- **Care & Maintenance of 'PEARLY SHORES' and 'NERO PERLA'**

This unique Product combines shells with fine grain quartz resulting in a beauty unsurpassed by any other Product in their range. However, because of the introduction of these shells, the areas where the shells are embedded on the surface of the product are susceptible to staining and react to vinegar, citric and other acids as the shells are made up of calcium carbonate. As the shells are softer than the quartz it will tend to get scratched or abrade if it comes into contact with harder materials.

#### 4. Polyurethane doors

DO NOT USE ABRASIVE CLEANERS ON POLYURETHANE SURFACES. Under no circumstances should an abrasive cleaner (or abrasive cloth or scourer) be used on polyurethane surfaces.

Abrasive cleaners (such as Gumption and Jif etc) will strip the surface of gloss and instantly deteriorate the finish.

Whilst polyurethane surfaces are generally resistant to solvents, we recommend against using solvent-based products when cleaning.

#### 5. Timber and veneer doors

Avoid solvent based cleaners (particularly aggressive solvents) when cleaning the back or face of the door or item. Normal cleaning maintenance can be done with mild soap and water.

If a solvent based cleaner is used, dab the cleaner on a cloth and wipe the area, wipe off the excess and remaining cleaner with a dry section of the cloth, rinse wipe the item the item with clean water to ensure no solvent remains.

Do not use an abrasive cleaner or pad, always use a soft cloth. Wipe off any spills immediately.

Avoid contact with sharp implements.

Do not place heaters in close proximity to Timber or Vacuum formed doors or other items, as this can cause damage.

Pull-out rangehoods must be used to their fullest extension, to avoid steam or cooking oil vapours from adversely affecting surfaces.

Avoid having a hot water jug/toaster etc. in a constant position directly underneath overhead cabinet doors or end panels.

#### 6. Melamine doors

Warm soapy water or windex is recommended for cleaning melamine surfaces. Do not use an abrasive cleaner as this will destroy the waxy overlay and dull the surface.

Cleaning and care instructions;

Keeping your Melamine surfaces clean is easy. Regular cleaning simply involves wiping with a clean, damp cloth.

For spills and stains the most important thing is to catch the stain early. Wiping it with hot soapy water is the first thing to try. Never use abrasive cleaners, wire wool scourer pads, copper cleaner pads or sandpaper on your Melamine surfaces.

#### 8. Vinyl vacuum formed doors

Warm soapy water or spray and wipe ,dishwashing liquid or methylated spirits and water will take off most marks and grease. Do not use any stronger solvents or abrasive products as this will damage the vinyl.

Do not place heaters in close proximity to Timber or Vacuum formed doors or other items, as this can cause damage.

Pull-out range-hoods must be used to their fullest extension, to avoid steam or cooking oil vapours from adversely affecting surfaces.

Avoid having a hot water jug/toaster etc. in a constant position directly underneath overhead cabinet doors or end panels.

## 9. Aluminium kickboards

Light soapy water, spray and wipe type non abrasive cleaner or a light solvent like methylated spirits or turpentine can be used to clean off scuff marks on the kickboard. The kickboards could also be replaced easily by buying new clip on lengths of kickboard and replacing the existing kickboards if damaged or marked or scratched.

## 10. PVC covered kickboards

Light soapy water or spray and wipe type non abrasive cleaner can be used. Do not use solvents like turpentine or thinners on the PVC. Alternatively the PVC tape can be replaced at a small cost of approximately \$5 - \$7 per metre to buy a new roll of PVC kickboard tape. Remove the old tape and replace with new tape.

## 11. Stainless Steel splashbacks

General Cleaning: All but the most stubborn stains and marks can be removed by using mild dish washing detergent, warm water and a lint-free (preferably microfiber) cloth. Stubborn Stains: Stains that are difficult to remove may be cleaned by using Spray & Wipe or an equivalent cleaner.

## 12. Acrylic Splashbacks

- **Cleaning**

With Zenolite, cleaning is meant to be simple. Best results are achieved by using a soft micro-fibre cloth or chamois with a non abrasive soap or common household detergent in warm water. Even grease or oil can be removed easily with kerosene.

Zenolite is inert and hygienic and does not promote bacterial growth or transmission, so when its clean – it's really clean!

Remember, as with all high gloss surfaces, do not rub the surface when it is dry or use brushes, scrapers or scourers at any time.

Because Zenolite is user friendly and environmentally engineered the surface does not need harsh chemicals or effort to clean it. There is no need for heavy cleaners such as window cleaning sprays, any acidic solutions and harsh chemicals like acetone, chloroform, benzene, ammonia, thinners, caustic soda, toluene, xylene etc. These complex and refined chemicals are not required to keep Zenolite in pristine condition.

- **Scratches**

Minor scratches and scuffing can be easily removed from Zenolite by hand with selected liquid polishes and soft polishing cloths. Any moderate damage can be restored completely to the original high gloss finish using very fine grades of wet and dry sandpaper by hand or by machine where necessary.

With minimal effort, Zenolite will continue to have a high gloss sheen.

## 13. Glass Splashbacks

Clean the glass with Windex or half methylated spirits and half water mixture with a clean lint free fine cloth.

## 14. Hinges, Handles and Drawer Runners

- Care Details

Drawer Systems, Lazy Susan, Soft Closing Buffers, Towel Rails, Bin and Handles.

It is recommended that the above mentioned products be maintained with a soft cloth. We suggest you wipe gently over any interior and/or exterior surfaces with a soft, clean, damp cloth and follow by drying thoroughly with a soft, clean, dry cloth. It is advised that you do not use any abrasive or harsh cleaners on or near any of the internal hardware, stainless steel surfaces or handles.

Hinges and Silent System Soft Closing Buffers;

It is recommended that hinges be maintained with a soft, dry cloth, but you must ensure the cloth does not contain any moisture. Some hinges are specially protected by a thin film of high grade oil that ensures its functionality and durability. This oil is necessary and therefore should NOT be removed with any form of detergent / anti grease cleaner or otherwise. Hinges should be kept free from dust and moisture by using a dry cloth.

DO NOT use any of the following to clean hardware surfaces:

- Abrasive or harsh cleaners, such as ammonia or chlorine bleach.
- Concentrated detergents, anti grease cleaners or solvents.
- Metal scouring pads (these products can scratch, crack and discolour your hardware surfaces).