oskar huber
FURNITURE & DESIGN

MARBLE & STONE CARE

Marble Tops
Found in many parts of the world, marble is an extremely durable stone formed over the course of millions of years as heat and pressure forced liquid minerals through softened limestone. As the earth cooled, the mineral flows stopped and eventually hardened. The resulting crystalline properties of these minerals lent the newly created marble the distinctive colors, veining, and graining for which the stone is valued.

While the surface of the marble on your top has been filled and polished or sealed to create a uniform, generally non-porous surface, the majority of the stones natural characteristics-including veining, hairline cracks, and color variations- remain an intrinsic part of the material's natural beauty, ensuring that each piece of furniture is a unique item to be treasured and enjoyed for many years to come.

Travertine Tops
This naturally porous sedimentary stone was formed by millions of years of pressure exerted on layers of minerals, particularly calcite, deposited by springs and hot springs flowing beneath the earth's crust. Subsequently, water flowing through the travertine caused its characteristic holes and crevices.

To make travertine more utilitarian, its holes are often filled with synthetic resins. While the surface of the travertine on your tops has been filled and polished to create a uniform, generally non-porous surface, the majority of the stone's natural characteristics, including veining, hairline fissures, pores, and color variations, remain an intrinsic part of the material's natural beauty, ensuring that each piece of furniture is a unique item to be treasured for many years to come. Below is a list of guidelines to assist you in maintaining the beauty of your marble / travertine tops.

Protect surfaces from scratching, staining, and etching by:

- Keeping them free from debris or sharp objects
- Wiping spills immediately
- Avoiding contact with chemicals, particularly acid-based materials
- Cleaning with pH neutral products or those especially formulated for use on stone
- Removing stains with special absorbent poultices formulated for use on stone

- After a period of use, applying a penetrating sealer to prevent contaminants from being absorbed into a stone
- Renewing the surface on polished stone (high gloss surface) by buffing with a special stone polish powder, or cream. Do not use polish on marble or travertine with a matte finish that has been honed rather than polished. (Penetrating sealer may be used on both polished and honed stone).

Marble / Stone Tops

When selecting a gift from Mother Nature, we want you to be completely comfortable and well informed about the materials you choose. Below is a brief and informative description of various stones.

Marble, granite, travertine, and limestone are products of the earth; formed, cooled and hardened, changed in character and appearance through natural alchemy into beautiful creations of nature. The growing interest in natural materials finds logical fulfillment in these materials.

The granular texture of these stones are as unique as a fingerprint. The grain of one is never identical to the next. Some are uniform while others are veined. The shade, veining, and movements add to their character.

Marble and Limestone begin as the same material and depending on surrounding mineral deposits, can be found in virtually every shade of color, texture, and veining characteristics imaginable. No two pieces are ever alike. After enough heat and pressure, limestone will crystallize resulting in marble.

Travertine also begins as limestone, which has been dissolved by hot water containing granules from deep within the earth. This water rises to form mud pools. After much time the mud pools crystallize into a solid porous stone.

Granite begins as liquid magma from deep within the earth's core. It is extremely dense and is formed from quartz, feldspar, and mica. Granite is harder and heavier than marble, is not subject to staining and is less prone to scratching.

Slate forms from thin layers of sedimentary rock shales of microscopic clay minerals with some quartz and calcite. It is mined by hand often under very difficult conditions. Although estimated to be 200 million years old, Slate is very popular for its 'contemporary look.

Silestone is an agglomerate of silica sands and granite granules, bound with a polyester resin. The physical properties are comparable to granite with lower absorption, high resistance to chemical products, more strength, and more resistance to scratching or breakage. This man-made product is harder than granite, and custom-made colors are available for orders over 3,500 square feet.

Frequently asked questions & natural characteristics you should know about

Q: Will the texture or color vary from stone to stone or order-to-order?
A: Yes. No two pieces of stone are ever alike. Natural characteristics such as veining and mineral deposits will affect each piece. Tone and shade ranges limit the differences, which may be associated with a particular stone so you are assured that your stone pieces will match as closely as possible within a selected range.

Q: Is it difficult to care for natural stone?
A: Different stones will have varying absorption properties. Granite is virtually non-porous and will withstand most stains. Marble, travertine, and slate are more porous and are more vulnerable to staining. Wipe the stone with a clean, damp cloth periodically to remove dust and debris. Avoid placing sharp items on any stone surface to prevent scratching, and use coasters under drinks. You may also add a thin layer of polish to build up a clear, protective coating.