



# Outdoor Concrete Countertop Care & Maintenance

- Your counters are sealed with a combination of exterior grade penetrating sealers (**Stonetech Heavy Duty Exterior and Impregnator Pro**). These food safe, professional grade penetrating sealers offer you a natural look and feel, high heat and scratch resistance, freeze-thaw resistance, and a versatile surface that is easy to repair.
- The sealers provide a reasonable buffer against stains, and ensure that any stains remain on the surface for easy repair. Please be aware, however, that your counters may stain if you do not clean up your messes right away. Stains do not compromise the function of your surface and can be repaired.
- The following care instructions will help ensure that your concrete countertops remain in good repair for many years to come.

## Care instructions

- Your concrete will continue to cure and harden during the first year after installation. Please take special care to protect your countertops during this time, as stains and etches will penetrate deeper when the concrete is fresh.

### **Regular maintenance**

- We recommend that you treat your surface regularly (from daily to weekly) with **Stonetech Revitalizer**, available through D.A.S. Stonetech Revitalizer is a pH neutral cleaner that also contains a small amount of penetrating sealer. Regular use of Revitalizer, in combination with other maintenance recommendations, will help extend the life of your sealer.

### **Cleaning & sanitizing**

- Wipe up messes **promptly** with water and a soft cloth, or a pH-neutral cleaning solution such as **Stonetech Revitalizer** or Stonetech Stone & Tile Cleaner. **Do not use** acidic or highly alkaline cleaners (e.g. vinegar or bleach), or abrasive clothes, sponges or cleaners (e.g. Comet).
- If using diluted dish soap and water to clean up spills, we recommend that you rinse the surface well afterwards and treat with Stonetech Revitalizer to reinforce the sealer, which can be broken down by alkaline soaps.
- If you need to sanitize your surface, we recommend that you use 70% isopropyl alcohol or another pH neutral disinfectant. Rinse the surface well afterwards and treat with Stonetech Revitalizer. **DO NOT USE** acidic or bleach-based cleaners or disinfectants.

## Stains & etches

- Concrete is sensitive to **acid etching** - a chemical reaction between an acid and certain compounds in the cement paste, which leaves a rough, light patch on the surface. **Acidic substances** such as lemon juice, vinegar, wine, hot sauce, and tomato-based sauces should be cleaned up **immediately** to avoid etching. If you do get an etch, however, don't worry. Etch marks can usually be removed through spot repairs, using hand polishing pads.
  - If you get etches in the first six months after installation, we recommend waiting until after the six month point before attempting to repair them. Your concrete will have hardened significantly by this point, reducing the risk of grinding down too far during the repair process and making it difficult to repolish the repaired area by hand.
- Other common **staining agents** include oil, coffee, soy sauce, and mustard. Wipe up these substances as soon as possible to minimize the risk of staining.
  - Most stains can be removed by placing a paper towel soaked in household bleach on the stain with a heavy object (e.g. glass) on top for 10-15 minute intervals, until the stain is removed. Treat the affected area generously with Stonetech Revitalizer afterwards (or reseal with Stonetech Impregnator Pro), as the bleach may break down the sealer.
  - For oil stains, use **Stonetech Oil Stain Remover**.
- Avoid leaving metal objects on your outdoor counters that could rust and stain your surface. Rust stains are difficult (but not impossible) to remove. Superficial rust marks can be removed using the hand polishing pads in your care kit. Contact us if you need assistance!
- Consult our stain and etch removal guides for more detailed recommendations, or contact us directly for guidance. Guides can be found at <https://www.dasconcrete.com/website/faq>. Or refer to the 'how to' videos on our Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbzyQE16lch4D18ZRKRZv0g>.

## Heat

- You may put **hot pots and pans** directly on the surface, if you choose.

## Scratches

- Always use a **cutting board** to protect both your knives and your countertops. Do not cut directly on concrete surfaces.
- Avoid dragging hard and or sharp objects across the surface.
- Minor scratches can be buffed out using hand polishing pads, using the same technique as for etch repair.

## Winter

- **Cover** your concrete surfaces in winter to help minimize the risk of freeze/thaw damage. Do not allow water to pool on the surface.

## Dos & Don'ts

- **Do** place a tray or dish under liquid dish and hand soaps. In concentrated form, these soaps can leave dark, oily stains in concrete that are difficult to remove. If liquid soap drips on the surface, wipe it up as soon as possible.

- **Do not** place clay flower pots or other pottery-based containers directly on the counter, as they will stain the concrete over time. Place felt pads or a tray underneath.
- **Do** place, rather than drop, objects on the surface. Like stone, concrete may chip if struck with a hard object, particularly along the edges of a slab.

### **Resealing**

- **Stonetech Heavy Duty Exterior sealer** is specifically designed to prevent water penetration in exterior surfaces and can be expected to last 7-8 years, if you follow the maintenance instructions above. A more rapid absorption of liquids (e.g. water) is a good sign that it is time to reseal your counters with **Heavy Duty Exterior sealer**. Two coats is recommended.
- **Stonetech Impregnator Pro sealer** is used to provide added protection against oil-based stains on cooking and food preparation surfaces (e.g. near BBQs), and can be expected to last 1-2 years. **Impregnator Pro sealer** can be reapplied over the existing **Heavy Duty Exterior sealer**, as required. Two coats is recommended.
- If reapplying both **Heavy Duty Exterior** and **Impregnator Pro** sealers, it is recommended that you apply the sealers in the following order:
  - 2 coats of **Heavy Duty Exterior sealer**
  - Let cure for 24 hours
  - 2 coats of **Impregnator Pro**
- You can reseal your countertops yourself by following the instructions on the container, or contact us to book a service appointment. Both sealers are available for purchase through D.A.S. Concrete Countertops.
- Note that the **Stonetech Heavy Duty Exterior** and **Impregnator Pro** sealers are solvent-based sealers. As such, you will need to reseal your counters with a solvent-based sealer.
- Please contact us if you require additional guidance.

## **SUPPORT**

We will gladly provide technical advice and assistance for the lifetime of our products.

For repair & maintenance inquiries, or if you have other questions or feedback, please don't hesitate contact us at (506) 858-7092 or [info@dasconcrete.com](mailto:info@dasconcrete.com) at any time.



## Warranty Information

**D.A.S. concrete countertops are fully guaranteed for one year against structural defects.**

While our countertops will last much longer than this, any defects caused by problems with the production process can be expected to show up during the first year. Potential defects include structural cracks, degradation (flaking away) of the surface, dislodging of surface aggregate or delamination of topical sealers (e.g. polyurethane). We will repair or replace any slabs displaying structural defects within the first year at no charge.

We cannot guarantee against hairline cracks or issues arising from care and maintenance practices, including, but not limited to, chips, stains or etches. However, we will always be available to assist clients with their repairs.

I understand and accept the care and maintenance instructions and warranty information explained above.

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_