



HOW TO REMOVE STAINS FROM YOUR CONCRETE COUNTERTOPS (PENETRATING SEALER)

Concrete is porous and must be sealed to protect against stains and etches. Your counters are sealed with [Stonetech Bulletproof sealer](#), a professional grade **penetrating sealer**. The sealer soaks into the concrete to close off the pores, providing a buffer against common staining agents and ensuring that any stains and etches remain on the surface for easy repair.

Tip: We recommend that you treat your concrete surfaces regularly (from daily to weekly) with [Stonetech Revitalizer](#), available through D.A.S. Concrete Countertops. Stonetech Revitalizer is a pH neutral cleaner that also contains a small amount of sealer. Regular use of Revitalizer, in combination with other recommended maintenance practices, will help extend the life of your sealer and keep your surfaces in good condition.

Most stains and etches can be prevented by following the golden rule of “**Clean up messes as you go**”. This is particularly important when those messes involve acidic substances (vinegar, lemon juice, hot sauce etc.). But life happens. And so do stains and etches. One of the beauties of concrete sealed with penetrating sealer is that those stains and etches can be easily repaired, usually by the homeowners themselves. Remember that the quicker you treat a stain, the easier it will be to remove.

Remember, as well, that it is natural for concrete surfaces to develop a patina over time, with heavy use areas developing more quickly. Think of the patina as the story of your countertop, as it evolves with age and use. A patina is not a stain. However, the development of a patina can help blend in minor stains over time.

Definitions:

Stain – A stain refers to a discoloration caused by an external substance that has soaked into the concrete. Common staining agents include red wine, mustard, coffee, tea, grape juice, soy sauce and oil. Note that acidic staining agents, such as red wine, mustard, and soy sauce, may also etch the surface, requiring both stain and etch repair. In most cases, the colour from the staining agent is transferred to the concrete. In the case of oil, the surface darkens where the oil soaks in.

Etch – Etching is the result of a chemical reaction between an acidic substance and certain compounds in the cement. The acid dissolves these compounds upon contact, leaving a rough, dull, lighter-coloured patch on the surface. The faster you clean up the acid on your counter, the less time it will have to react and the less severe the etch will be. In most cases, visible etching will begin within 1-2 minutes of exposure. Common acids in the kitchen include vinegar and vinegar-based sauces, ketchup, lemon juice and hot sauce. If the mark on your counter is lighter than the rest of the surface, it is an etch. If you're unsure, rub your fingers over it: an etch will feel slightly rough to the touch.

Example of an etch:



Stain removal techniques

I. Water marks

- Water marks are temporary, and should disappear over time as the area dries out. You are more likely to see water marks if your counters are new and the penetrating sealer is still taking effect, or if the penetrating sealer is beginning to wear off after several years of use. If you notice an increase in water marks after several years, please contact us to schedule a new penetrating sealer treatment for your counters or to seek guidance on how to do it yourself.

II. Organic (food) stains

- **Bleach.** Soak a cotton ball or folded paper towel with hydrogen peroxide or household bleach, place it on the stain, and set a heavy object on top for 5-10 minutes. Remove and rinse the affected area with water. If the stain is still visible, repeat as needed. While we do not recommend using alkaline cleaning products on a regular basis, as they break down the sealer, short-term exposure to bleach should not harm your countertop. Be sure to rinse the surface well when you're finished and treat the affected area with Stonetech Revitalizer to reinforce the remaining sealer. If repeated bleach treatments are required, we recommend resealing the area with Stonetech Bulletproof Sealer. Small bottles of sealer are available through D.A.S. Concrete Countertops.

***IMPORTANT:** Be sure to treat the affected area with Stonetech Revitalizer.*

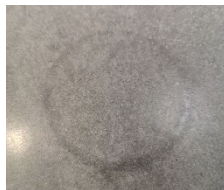
Inorganic stains (ink, dye etc.)

- **Scrubbing method:** Pour a small amount of rubbing alcohol on the stained area and scrub gently with a non-abrasive sponge or brush until the stain has lifted. If this method doesn't work, try the poultice method below.
- **Hydrogen peroxide poultice:** Combine hydrogen peroxide with flour or baking soda to make a thick paste (texture of peanut butter). Spread the paste over the stain, 1/4" thick and extending a bit beyond the stain. Cover with plastic wrap, tape down the edges with painter's tape and let sit for 24 hours. Poke a few holes in the plastic for air circulation. Remove the plastic wrap and allow the poultice to finish drying. Scrape the dry poultice off with a plastic scraper and wipe with a damp cloth. Wash well. Repeat if necessary. (This poultice can also be used to remove stubborn food stains, if the above methods don't work.)

IMPORTANT: Be sure to rinse well and treat the affected area with Stonetech Revitalizer, or reseal with Stonetech Bulletproof sealer.

III. Oil stains

- Oil and grease stains, which show up as dark marks on your counter, can be more difficult to remove than other stains because the oil tends to penetrate more deeply into the concrete. The penetrating sealer on your counters will help slow down absorption of any oil spills, and limit how deep the oil can go, but it is still best to wipe up any oil spills or splashes as soon as possible.



Example of an oil stain

- **Stonetech Oil Stain Remover:** The easiest way to remove oil stains from your countertop is with the [Stonetech Oil Stain Remover](#), available through D.A.S. This ready-to-use poultice can be spread over the oil stain and left to dry for 24-48 hours, as per label directions. As soon as the poultice has dried, scrape off and rinse well. It should flake off like a powder if it is ready to be removed. It is recommended that you reseal the affected

area with Stonetech Bulletproof Sealer afterwards, as the poultice will break down the existing sealer. At a minimum, treat the surface generously with Stonetech Revitalizer.

- You may notice a lighter patch where the oil stain remover was. This is caused by one of two things: either it is a residue from the oil stain remover and/or the oil stain remover has removed the build up of oils that make up your countertop's patina and returned the surface to its original colour. If your countertop has developed a patina, be patient and the lighter patches should blend back in over time as natural oils build up again. If desired, you can try removing any residue using acetone or mineral spirits (follow product instructions carefully) – or let it wear off over time.

***IMPORTANT:** Remember to reseal the affected area with Stonetech Bulletproof Sealer, or treat generously with Stonetech Revitalizer, once the oil stain has been removed.*

IV. Etches

- The above techniques will not remove an etch. Repairing an etch requires grinding down the surface to remove the affected layer of concrete (usually very thin) and then repolishing it to match the surrounding area. The penetrating sealer on your counters will help ensure that the etches remain close to the surface. In most cases (for small etches), you should be able to repair etches yourself using a set of diamond hand polishing pads and water.
- For instructions on how to repair a etch, please refer to our etch repair guide, available under the Resources section of our website (www.dasconcrete.com).

We offer full refinishing services for all of our products, should you wish to renew your surface at any time (e.g. before selling your home, as part of major renovations, etc.). Please contact us to discuss your needs.

** For video versions these instructions, please refer to our Youtube channel, which be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbzyQE16lch4DI8ZRKRZv0g> (or search for 'D.A.S. Concrete Countertops').

Stone care products

To order the stone care products referenced in this guide, contact D.A.S. Concrete Countertops at the coordinates below, or drop into our showroom in Dieppe to pick up what you need.

Useful References

I. How-to videos

- **D.A.S. Youtube channel – ‘How to’ series:**
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbzyQEI6lch4DI8ZRKRZv0g>
- **How to use Stonetech Oil Stain Remover:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8CEZT2YBZ0>
- **How to apply Stonetech Bulletproof sealer:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rr8bwIO8MNI&t=105s;>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IcVo-Eu0dsk>
- Or check out our **Youtube** playlist of stone care videos (including the links above):
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLULXtMws76bSOFW0LWwgJbnORW8cb_mV-

II. Helpful webpages

- **Removing stubborn stains:** <https://www.concretenetwork.com/fix-concrete-countertops/removing-stubborn-stains.html>
- **Repairing acid etches:** <https://www.concretenetwork.com/fix-concrete-countertops/spots-from-acid-etching.html>
- **Removing oil stains:** <https://www.concretenetwork.com/fix-concrete-countertops/remove-oil-stains.html>