

Care and maintenance

Concrete countertops and surfaces

Material

A concrete surface has very similar properties to natural stone or wood. The lustre and beauty of polished concrete will increase over time, much like any natural material, with simple care and attention. Concrete is an inherently absorbent material that benefits from being sealed with a penetrative, breathable sealant.

Sealant

Lazenby seal their finished concrete with a penetrative sealant that is designed to inhibit staining. However, penetrative sealants only resist staining and do not give a fully stain proof seal. A degree of maintenance is required with concrete surfaces and re-buffing and stain removal / reduction is a simple and effective process. If a sealant that prevents the material from breathing is used, then delamination of the sealant from the surface is likely.

The surface is sprayed **and** sealed with a 2-part water-based sealer. This sealant is used because it is widely considered to be the most effective and sympathetic sealant available on the market. Lazenby sealer does not alter the natural appearance of concrete and creates a stain resistant barrier.

In addition to the sealant, a wax polish is also applied to the concrete work surface. This gives sheen and added resistance to water or other liquid penetration.

Surface sensitivity

Although Lazenby sealer currently provides the highest professional protection against staining from dirt and grease, surfaces remain sensitive to acids such as wine, vinegar and lemon juice. Other liquids such as oils, tea, coffee as well as soap and toothpaste can also stain the surface if left untreated and so should also be wiped up as soon as possible.

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iconic polished concrete flooring and surfaces



Care guidelines

- Re-apply a wax every 6 months (this will vary depending on use but water should 'bead' on the surface). This can be done by simply wiping on a thin layer of the product with a cloth. Allow the product to sit for 5 minutes and then buff off to the required sheen. Add more product if necessary.
- Apply wax regularly as required (especially in areas around the sink, hob or cooker). Apply with a dry cloth and buff to a desired sheen. Work in small areas at a time.
- Wipe off any acidic foods or liquids and oil splatters as soon as possible.
- Give the countertop a general wipe down during use with a damp cloth so as not to leave foodstuffs or liquids to dry on the surface.
- To clean the surface use Lithofin Easy Clean spray which is mildly alkaline and compatible with **our other** products. Alternatively use a **pH** neutral detergent spray such as Ecover. Avoid bleach or aggressive chemical cleaners, as these will attack concrete and affect the sealant.
- Avoid cutting directly onto the countertop.
- Do not place hot objects directly onto the countertop (use a pan rack or coaster). This will not harm the concrete but may 'fuse' the sealer and leave a mark and affect the performance of the sealant.
- To remove oil and grease marks use Lithofin Oil-Ex. This is **a** paste that is applied to the oil or grease mark and allowed to work over a number of hours. It is easy to use and very effective. Repeated use may be required on stubborn stains. Always follow **the** manufacturer's instructions when using Lithofin products.

For supply of Lithofin products please contact Stonetools Ltd: 01892 519 290



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