

Basalt is a fine-grained *volcanic igneous* stone — one of the densest natural countertops available. It is acid-resistant, heat-tolerant, and only mildly porous, but its dark matte surface shows water spots and oils more readily than lighter polished stones. The guidelines below preserve the stone's deep charcoal tone for decades.

DAILY CARE

- **Wipe spills promptly.** Although basalt resists acids, water, wine, and oil left to sit can leave temporary dark rings on a honed finish.
- **Clean with a pH-neutral stone cleaner** and warm water. Buff dry with a soft microfiber to avoid water spotting on the matte surface.
- **Use trivets** under cast iron and high-heat pans. Basalt is heat-tolerant but rapid temperature shock can cause hairline checks.
- **Use cutting boards.** Knife edges will dull on basalt and the stone will pick up faint metallic streaks from blades.
- **Buff routinely with a dry microfiber** to keep the velvety honed finish even.

WHAT TO AVOID

- × Strongly acidic *and* strongly alkaline cleaners — they will lighten the dark matrix over time.
- × Bathroom / grout / tub-and-tile cleaners.
- × Abrasive pads, steel wool, scouring powders — they leave bright scratches on dark basalt.
- × Mineral oil, waxes, or topical polishes — they build up a sticky film on basalt and trap dirt.
- × Standing water along the seam edges — repeated wet/dry cycles can darken the perimeter unevenly.

STAIN REMOVAL

Stain	Treatment
Oil / grease (cooking, butter)	pH-neutral degreasing stone cleaner. Set stains: poultice with acetone + diatomaceous earth.
Water rings / hard-water spots	Buff with a damp microfiber and pH-neutral cleaner. Persistent spots: light pad of 0000 steel wool dry-buffed in a circular motion, then re-seal.
Organic (wine, coffee, tea)	12% hydrogen peroxide poultice. Avoid bleach on basalt — it can blanch the dark mineral matrix.
Rust	Non-acid rust remover formulated for stone. Test in an inconspicuous area first; some basalts contain iron-bearing minerals that react.
Metal marks (knife, pot)	Rub gently with a damp non-scratch nylon pad and pH-neutral cleaner. Re-seal after.

Poultice method: Mix absorbent powder (diatomaceous earth or kaolin) with the appropriate solvent into a peanut-butter paste. Apply ¼–½" thick, cover with plastic wrap, tape edges, dry 24–48 hrs, remove and rinse with distilled water. Repeat if needed.

SEALING

Basalt is dense but slightly porous on a honed finish — sealing is recommended once on installation and refreshed every few years. Always use a **penetrating impregnating sealer**; topical coatings will appear blotchy on a matte basalt and peel.

STAIN-PROOF (Dry Treat) · Premium Impregnating Sealer

World-leading penetrating sealer, ISO Class 5 stain resistance. Will not darken honed basalt when applied correctly. Food-safe once cured.

Re-seal: Every 8–10 years

Tenax · Hydrex W Water-Based Impregnator

VOC-free water-based impregnator developed for very dense stones. Penetrates basalt's tight matrix without leaving a sheen. Excellent for indoor use.

Re-seal: Every 4–6 years

Color note: If basalt has faded to grey, a *color-enhancing* impregnator (Tenax Ager or STAIN-PROOF Color Enhancing) will restore the deep charcoal cast — but it is permanent. Test on an inconspicuous area first.

HOW TO SEAL

1. Clean thoroughly with pH-neutral stone cleaner. Allow surface to dry fully (24 hrs minimum).
2. Apply sealer with a soft cloth in an even, thin coat. **Do not flood** — basalt accepts very little sealer and excess will haze.
3. Dwell 5–10 min, then aggressively buff off *all* excess with a dry microfiber before it dries. Streak-free is critical on dark stone.
4. Inspect under raking light — re-buff any glossy patches immediately.
5. Allow 24 hrs before use. Full chemical bond develops over 2–3 weeks.
6. Annual test: water should bead on a clean, dry surface. If it darkens the stone within 60 seconds, re-seal.

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

- **Weekly:** Clean with pH-neutral stone cleaner; buff dry with microfiber to maintain the matte finish.
- **Monthly:** Inspect for scratches or metal marks; treat early with a non-scratch nylon pad.
- **Annually:** Perform water bead test; re-seal if absorbed.
- **As needed:** Touch up edge profiles with a stone-safe color-matched sealer if rim has dulled from spills.