

Onyx is a translucent *calcareous* stone (calcium carbonate, chemically related to marble). It is prized for its luminescence when backlit, but it is the most delicate of common countertop stones — soft, brittle, and exceptionally acid-sensitive. Onyx is best used on bars, vanities, and feature islands rather than primary cooking countertops.

DAILY CARE

- **Wipe spills instantly** — onyx etches faster than marble and can develop a permanent dull patch from a single drop of lemon juice. Blot, never wipe.
- **Clean with a pH-neutral stone cleaner** only. Use the gentlest wipe possible — onyx scratches more easily than marble.
- **Use coasters** under every glass without exception, including water.
- **Avoid heavy items.** Onyx is brittle and can crack under point loads — never stand or sit on it.
- **Use trivets and felt pads** beneath anything resting on the stone.

WHAT TO AVOID

- × All acids — citrus, wine, vinegar, tomato, soda, sparkling water, even a sliced citrus left briefly on the stone.
- × All bathroom / lime-scale / tub-and-tile cleaners.
- × Bleach — can blanch onyx's natural color veins.
- × Abrasive pads, melamine sponges, scouring powders — onyx's polish is delicate.
- × Heat directly on the stone — thermal shock can crack translucent onyx slabs.

STAIN REMOVAL

Stain	Treatment
Etch marks (dull patches)	Light: marble polishing powder applied very gently. Deeper: professional only — DIY honing easily over-removes onyx.
Organic (wine, coffee, food)	Hydrogen peroxide poultice (low strength on dark onyx — can lighten color).
Oil / grease	pH-neutral degreaser; set stains: acetone poultice.
Cracks or chips	Color-matched epoxy by a stone professional — onyx is brittle and DIY repair often makes the chip more visible.
Cloudiness from over-cleaning	Stop daily cleaners; rinse with distilled water; re-seal.

Poultice method: Mix kaolin (preferred for onyx — gentlest) with the appropriate cleaning agent into a paste. Apply ¼" thick, cover with plastic wrap, tape edges, dry 24–48 hrs, scrape gently and rinse with distilled water. Avoid aggressive scraping — onyx's surface is soft.

SEALING

Onyx is porous and stains very easily. **Penetrating impregnating sealing is essential** on installation, with two coats minimum, and refreshed more often than denser stones. Topical sealers and waxes will look cloudy under back-lighting and must never be used.

STAIN-PROOF (Dry Treat) · Premium Impregnating Sealer

Best-in-class penetrating sealer with no surface film — preserves onyx's translucency under backlight. ISO Class 5 stain resistance.

Re-seal: Every 3–5 years

Tenax · Proseal-P Premium Natural Effect Sealer

Ultra-premium impregnator that fills pores deeply with no surface haze. Will not impair backlighting.

Re-seal: Every 2–3 years

Never apply mineral oil, waxes, or topical sealers to onyx — they will cloud the translucency that makes the stone valuable.

HOW TO SEAL

1. Clean very gently with pH-neutral cleaner. Allow 48 hrs to dry (onyx can hold moisture in its veins).
2. Apply impregnating sealer with a soft cloth in a thin, even coat — do not flood.
3. Dwell 5–15 min, then buff off all excess very gently with a dry microfiber.
4. Apply a second coat after 10–15 min — onyx needs it.
5. Allow 48 hrs before use. Full chemical bond develops over 3–4 weeks.
6. Test water bead semi-annually on countertops in regular use.

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

- **Daily:** Light wipe with pH-neutral cleaner; dry promptly.
- **Monthly:** Inspect under backlight for new etches or stains; treat early before they spread.
- **Semi-annually:** Water-bead test on bar/kitchen surfaces.
- **Every 2–3 years:** Re-seal regardless of test.