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Natural Stone Care & Maintenance

Quartzite · Interior Kitchen Countertop

Quartzite is a *metamorphic* stone formed when sandstone is recrystallized under heat and pressure. True quartzite is among the hardest natural countertops — harder than granite, acid-resistant, and heat-tolerant. Note: some material sold as quartzite contains calcareous (dolomitic) veins that *can* etch — request a lemon-juice spot test before installation.

DAILY CARE

- **Wipe spills** with a damp cloth. Quartzite resists acids and stains well, but standing wine or citrus on a porous slab may still leave a stain.
- **Clean with a pH-neutral stone cleaner** and warm water. Diluted dish soap is acceptable for occasional cleaning.
- **Use cutting boards.** Quartzite is harder than steel and will dull knives quickly.
- **Use trivets** for very hot cookware. Quartzite is heat-resistant but a 500°F skillet on a cold surface can still crack thin sections via thermal shock.
- **Treat dolomitic veins** (the white/translucent ones) like marble: blot acids immediately.

WHAT TO AVOID

- ✕ Acidic cleaners on dolomitic varieties (Calacatta-look quartzites, some Cristallo) — they will etch the vein structure.
- ✕ Bathroom / grout / tub-and-tile cleaners.
- ✕ Abrasive pads, steel wool, scouring powders — bright scratches on any honed quartzite.
- ✕ Solvents (acetone, lacquer thinner) for routine cleaning — strip the sealer.
- ✕ Mineral oil and waxes — quartzite does not need them and they leave a sticky residue.

STAIN REMOVAL

Stain	Treatment
Oil / grease	pH-neutral degreaser; set stains: poultice with acetone or mineral spirits + diatomaceous earth.
Organic (wine, coffee, food)	12% hydrogen peroxide + a drop of ammonia. Poultice for set stains.
Etching on dolomitic veins	Marble polishing powder applied locally with a damp cloth. Test in an inconspicuous area — quartz body will not respond, only the calcareous vein.
Rust	Non-acid stone-safe rust remover. Some quartzites contain iron — test first.
White haze from sealer over-application	Sealer stripper or denatured alcohol; re-seal in a thinner coat.

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

SEALING

Quartzite varies widely in porosity — dense varieties (Taj Mahal, Sea Pearl) need light sealing, while open-pored varieties (Cristallo, Macaubas) need more frequent treatment. Always use a **penetrating impregnating sealer**.

STAIN-PROOF (Dry Treat) · Premium Impregnating Sealer
ISO Class 5 stain resistance, 15-year warranty. The best choice for white and translucent quartzites where any color shift would be visible.
Re-seal: Every 10–15 years

Tenax · Proseal-P Premium Natural Effect Sealer
Premium impregnator with no surface film. Food-safe. Excellent on patterned quartzites including Fusion and Ijen Blue.
Re-seal: Every 3–5 years

Color note: A standard impregnator will not change quartzite's appearance. Avoid "enhancing" sealers unless you specifically want to deepen the tone — the effect is permanent.

HOW TO SEAL

1. Clean thoroughly with pH-neutral cleaner. Allow 24 hrs to dry.

2. Apply sealer with a soft cloth in an even coat until the surface no longer absorbs.

3. Dwell 5–15 min, then buff off all excess before it dries — haze is hard to remove from quartzite.

4. Apply a second coat after 10–15 min on porous varieties only.

5. Allow 24 hrs before use. Full chemical bond develops over 3–4 weeks.

6. Annual test: water should bead on a clean, dry surface.

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

- **Daily:** Wipe with pH-neutral cleaner.
- **Monthly:** In good light, glance over the white veins for dull spots after acidic spills. For a small fresh etch on a calcareous vein, an at-home etch-removal pad (Tenax TeEtch, MB-11) is safe; for larger or persistent areas, call a stone professional.
- **Annually:** Water-bead test. Re-seal porous varieties if absorbed.
- **Every 5–10 years:** Top-up sealer on dense quartzites.

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