



# Hints For The Home

## Caring For Granite Countertops

(NAPSA)—Granite countertops are the most popular option available when it comes to kitchen or bathroom remodeling. They look great, they're durable, but they can also cost thousands of dollars.

Granite requires special care and attention because it's a natural stone. Here are a few tips to help you protect your investment:

### •Seal your countertops:

According to the Marble Institute of America, an industry group, granite countertops should be sealed so that the stone is more resistant to dirt and spills. Check with the manufacturer or retailer about the best kind of sealer to use on food preparation areas.

•**Be careful what you clean with:** Never use ammonia-based products—or cleaners containing vinegar, lemon or orange—on your granite countertops. Avoid abrasive cleaners such as dry or soft cleansers. Don't use cleaning products that contain acid such as bathroom, grout, or tub and tile cleaners. Specialty granite cleaners can be used, but they can be expensive. There's a way to stretch your dollars.

•**Mind your budget:** JAWS Glass & Hard Surface Cleaner ([www.jawscleans.com](http://www.jawscleans.com)) cleans granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, glass and even



**There are safe and cost-effective ways to protect your granite countertops.**

your flat-screen TV. It's also non-toxic and costs less than most other cleaners because each JAWS product is actually two bottles in one. (The cartridge refill is attached to the bottle.)

There are also some other basic preventive measures you can take to protect your granite countertops:

•**Use coasters:** Place a coaster under all glasses, particularly those containing alcohol or citrus juices that can etch or dull the surface of many stone countertops.

•**Use trivets or mats:** They'll protect your granite countertop from hot dishes and help avoid scratches.

Granite countertops can really add spark to a kitchen or bathroom. Proper care will keep them looking beautiful.