

Kitchen worktop

Authored by: **Maurizio Bertoli** [mailto:mbstone.com]

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Is it practical to have a slate or soapstone kitchen worktop with regards to stains and scratches? Is marble a NO, No for a kitchen worktop for these reasons?

Dear Nita:

Slate and soapstone are two completely different animals. IMO, slate does not belong in a kitchen. Soapstone does instead, and big time, too! The only drawback about soapstone is that it scratches easy, but it can just as easily be repaired with sandpaper; not to mention that the recommended treatment with mineral oil will hide most of the scratches.

As far as marble is concerned, the issue is different:

The stone itself has nothing to do with it. It's rather a collective culture issue.

All throughout the Mediterranean basin marble is a very popular stone as a kitchen countertop and everybody enjoys it. (Limestone is not so popular, but certain types of limestone could be acceptable in relation of what follows.) In Northern Europe and all throughout North America, many like the way it looks, but nobody enjoys it!

How's that?

For the simple reason that in Southern Europe they never install a polished marble countertop (or a polished marble floor, for that matter). They start from a honed surface and then they start using and abusing it and only care for it with a good-quality stone cleaner (like MB-5). The worse it gets, the better they like it! It's considered "aging". It's like a pair of old blue jeans, if you know what I mean: a highly sought "lived-in" look.

While the looks of an old pair of jeans is very much appreciated in Northern Europe or in North America, too, the same principle does not seem to apply to stone. Most people over here expect their stone to look like brand-new all the time, and any "change" is not considered "aging", but a damage that needs to be rectified.

Hence the problem.

The question now is: regardless of your geographical location, which one of the two groups do you belong to? J

May I ask you now to please read and e-sign our Statement of Purpose at: <http://www.marblecleaning.org/purpose.htm> ? J

Ciao and good luck,

Maurizio Bertoli

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