

# Black honed granite

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We are moving into a brand new apt with honed black granite for kitchen countertop and have no idea what to do with it. For example, what should we do first to the counter so that from now on it will just need a wipe down with soap and water for cleanup. We have read that it is not wise to 'seal' a honed granite counter-- but should we use something to impregnate it so that other liquids will not penetrate the counter and possibly destroy it? Your help in answering the questions will help greatly because since it is brand new, we do not want to start out on the wrong foot. Thanks

Dear Amy:

It simply amazes me noticing how concerned some people are about sealing a stone that can't be sealed because it is too dense to absorb anything, but at the same time are satisfied with water and dish soap for the routine (make-believe) "cleaning" - which, no matter what, is - like it should be intuitive - vastly more important than the sealing!...

At any rate, there are indeed different opinions on the issue of sealing black hone granite, but there is a unanimous consensus about the fact that it presents maintenance issues. The problem with honed black granite is that it is not, well - black any more! Most black stones are but an optical illusion: they become black only when highly polished, or when wet. (See the back of your slab to see the *real* color of your stone!) As you take gloss off the stone surface (and honing does just that) you lose depth of color and the stone turns gray; but when you wet it ... here it is black again! As you spill oily liquids, or you simply touch the stone surface with your fingers (perspiration), you're going to have all sorts of dark surface stains that are a terrible eyesore. Please notice that I said, **surface** stains, not **imbedded** stains. In fact, you can clean those stains off (though with lots of labor), while if they were imbedded you would have to poultice them out. If you apply an impregnator/sealer to the stone you will not solve your problem one bit: in fact the sealer will only prevent liquids from being absorbed by the stone (which in the case of black honed granite is an unlikely event to begin with), not the staining of its surface.

Any solution?

Well, yes: you have to give up the gray!

If you apply a good-quality stone color enhancer to your countertop **instead of** an impregnating sealer (a good-quality stone color-enhancer like MB-6 is also an impregnator/sealer) it will turn it permanently black, while preserving the hone finish. In that way, the surface-staining problem would be minimized.

Let's just hope that your fabricator, in their "infinite wisdom," did not apply an impregnator/sealer to your stone: this would have to be stripped (not an easy feat!), or else the color/enhancer wouldn't stand a chance to work properly.

And don't you forget that in order to upkeep your stone *and* the color enhancer, your best bet is to use good-quality specialty products for stone. ( <http://www.mbstonecare.com> )

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