

MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Care, Handling and Cleaning Guidelines for **SAPLESTON™**

Care & Handling - **SAPLESTON™** is a real and natural slate product and it is as porous as any natural slate would be. The slate may absorb the oils found on your hands and fingers. Follow the cleaning instructions to remove any smudges. Wearing gloves when handling these material will minimize the amount of cleaning required.

Cleaning – Any impurities splashed or spilled on the **SAPLESTON™** should be removed as soon as possible. In doing so warm water and a lightly moistened lint free cloth often suffices.

If the impurity or stain is not easily removed, we recommend washing the surface with a soft lint free cloth moistened with a mild dish washing liquid and warm water solution. If you do use any additional cleaners, test them on an inconspicuous area first to make sure they will not adversely harm or stain the surface of the **SAPLESTON™**.

If the **SAPLESTON™** is being used in any wet areas such as kitchen backsplashes, near a food preparation area or sink, it does need to be sealed. Bacteria & everyday stains and dirt can accumulate in the slate's pores making it difficult to clean. The natural minerals present in your water can also accumulate in the stone's pores. This is most noticeable in bathroom application and shower/bath areas.

There are a variety of stone sealers on the market today and when applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations will seal the pores on the **SAPLESTON™** surfaces. We have tested Protect Guard FT (Matt Finish) and PG (Wetlook) with very satisfactory results. You can also use TEC-EnsealantSB, it is a solvent based stone enhancer and sealer.

PIC Sableston Stone

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Touch-Up - As real slate will scratch when dragged across another piece of slate or a hard object. Many times what you see is the residual stone dust from the scratch. Cleaning as stated above will remove the stone remnants. If it is a much deeper scratch wiping a small trace of oil with your finger tip into the scratch will help prior to a light cleaning as above.

Please note that **SAPLESTON™** is a real slate stone. There are natural inconsistencies, fractures, colour and surface variations and imperfections visible on the surfaces. These are quite normal and do not constitute faults or imperfections.

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