

UNDERSTANDING YOUR NON-POLISHED SURFACES

Non-polished quartz and natural stone surfaces have a distinctive matte appearance that many homeowners prefer for its modern, sophisticated look. While engineered quartz and natural stone have different properties, non-polished versions of both require specific care to maintain their beauty and functionality.

DAILY CLEANING

- Clean with a soft cloth or sponge using warm water and mild dish soap
- Avoid abrasive cleaners, scouring pads, or harsh chemicals that can damage the surface
- For routine cleaning, a pH-neutral cleaner specifically formulated for stone surfaces works best
- Always dry the surface thoroughly after cleaning to prevent water spots
- For natural stone, be especially careful with acidic substances which can etch the surface

PROTECTION OPTIONS: SEALER VS. AGER

ENHANCING SEALER (AGER)

- **Recommended for:**
 - Dark, non-polished natural stone (marble, granite, limestone, etc.)
 - Dark, non-polished engineered quartz
- **Benefits:** Darkens the material while providing protection, helps hide fingerprints, water spots, oil marks, and stains
- **Example product:** Tenax Ager
- **Important note:** Will alter the natural color of your surface by deepening/enhancing it

TRANSPARENT SEALER

- **Recommended for:**
 - All natural stone (regardless of color or finish) where preserving the natural appearance is preferred
 - Lighter colored non-polished engineered quartz
- **Benefits:** Provides basic stain protection while maintaining original appearance
- **Example product:** Tenax Proseal
- **Important note:** Will not hide fingerprints, water spots, or oil marks as effectively as an ager

APPLICATION GUIDE

- **Polished engineered quartz:** No sealer or ager needed
- **Dark, non-polished surfaces (both natural stone and engineered quartz):** Ager recommended
- **All other natural stone:** Sealer recommended

STAIN PREVENTION

- Wipe up spills immediately, especially acidic substances like wine, coffee, citrus juices, and vinegar
- Use coasters under glasses and trivets under hot items
- Avoid placing raw meat directly on the surface
- Do not use oil-based cleaners which can leave residue on non-polished surfaces
- Natural stone is more porous than engineered quartz and requires more diligent protection

WHAT TO AVOID

- Harsh chemical cleaners including bleach and ammonia-based products
- Acidic cleaners like vinegar or lemon-based solutions
- Abrasive cleaning tools or scouring pads
- Allowing spills to sit on the surface
- Placing hot pots and pans directly on the surface

REAPPLICATION OF PROTECTION

- For natural stone: Sealers or agers typically need reapplication every 6-12 months depending on use
- For non-polished engineered quartz: Reapplication every 1-2 years is usually sufficient
- Consider reapplication if water no longer beads on the surface or stains become more noticeable
- Follow product-specific instructions for reapplication

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR NATURAL STONE

- Natural stone is more susceptible to etching from acidic substances than engineered quartz
- Different stone types (marble, granite, limestone, etc.) have varying porosity levels and may require more frequent sealing
- Softer stones like marble and limestone may be more prone to scratching and require extra care

Remember that your choice between an ager or transparent sealer should be based on your preference for appearance versus maintenance. Dark, non-polished surfaces typically benefit from an ager to help mask everyday marks, while a transparent sealer preserves the natural color but requires more vigilant cleaning.