

RICHLITE SURFACES CARE & MAINTENANCE

Routine Cleaning and Upkeep

Richlite surface is a durable, attractive material designed to stay beautiful for the lifetime of your kitchen, bath or office space. A simple wipe up with a damp sponge on a regular basis will maintain its beauty. Alkaline soap such as regular dish soap will gradually dull the surface, this usually occurs around the sink area. Howard Naturals Wood Cleaner and Polish will lightly renew the luster if used on a regular basis. Richlite recommends that fabricators finish the surface with Richlite Enhancer to provide a rich, polished finish that requires minimum care.

Removing Stains

Generally speaking, Richlite resists stains quite well. As with most any material, there is a potential for some staining. With stubborn stains, try a nonabrasive household cleaner.

Repairing Scratches and Burn Marks

Richlite is extremely dense and durable. The material resists scratches and burns but, like most surfaces, can potentially be damaged by cutting directly on the surface or setting a hot frying pan on the surface. Richlite recommends the use of cutting boards, hot pads and trivets to protect the surface from potential damage.

Before clients decide to refinish their countertop, please have them seek the advice of the dealer or fabricator who installed the counter. In most cases, it is preferable if the installer refinishes the surface for your client. Light scratch marks and burn marks can be refinished using a Scotch-Brite® pad (#7447/Red Color) on a random orbital sander. It is important to note, the refinished area will noticeably lighten compared to the surrounding surface area. Richlite surfaces

are made of paper which, like wood, patinas – or darkens – over time, especially in the lighter colors such as Baguette. The area will eventually patina and match the remainder of the counter surrounding it. In order to avoid affecting one spot, lightly refinish the entire section of the counter.

General Precautions

Richlite countertops are stain resistant to nearly all kitchen related substances with the exception of some raw meat juice (such as liver), high-alkaline fruit or vegetables (such as papaya and red beet), and high-alkaline soaps (such as automatic dishwasher powder and oven cleaners) when left in contact for a prolonged time.

The lighter colors in the Richlite color range will show stains more than the darker colors. Additionally, grout (which is a high alkaline product) will lighten darker-colored Richlite counters and darken the lighter tones. Cover the surface with a protective sheet when installing tile around countertop areas. Avoid using bleach products or abrasive powdered cleaners. It is good to avoid using the abrasive side of sponges as this may also scratch the surface of a Richlite countertop.

* Scotch-Brite is a registered trademark of 3M Company.

Howard Naturals can be purchased at many paint stores nationally. It is also available at:

www.howardnaturals.com/wood_cleaner_and_polish.asp