

QUARTZFORMS



PRODUCT MAINTENANCE

Quartz composites are highly compact materials without porosity; as such they do not require oil-proofing or waterproofing treatments. They do not absorb liquids, odours or cooking fats. For this reason, they do not enable bacteria to multiply, they are resistant to acids and to stains from daily use, as well as scuffs, scratches and small knocks; they are also easy to clean, guaranteeing a high standard of hygiene.

Despite the material being resistant to high temperatures, it is advisable to protect it using table mats to avoid direct contact with the saucepan surfaces or utensils which have just been removed from the oven. In fact, direct contact with hot objects or flames could cause indelible marks due to the heating of the resin, or breakages caused by thermal shock. It is essential to remember never to use the surface for ironing.

Although it is resistant to scuffs and scratches, to guarantee optimal conservation of its original appearance we advise that chopping boards should always be used. It is furthermore advisable never to overload the work surfaces with weights exceeding 50 kg (never jump or sit on the top) and avoid dropping pointed or sharp objects on it (such as knives, bottles, pans, cooking utensils etc.) which, due to their shape, could cause chipping which would be difficult to fix.

Cleaning instructions

Thanks to its natural properties, quartz is very easy to clean. We recommend nevertheless that any marks should be cleaned off while they are still fresh because marks left on the surface for a longer period of time may become difficult or impossible to remove.

Substances which may stain can be divided into two categories:

Organic substances

These include marks caused by food residue, oil, splashes of sauce etc. These substances must be cleaned using a kitchen de-greaser. The detergent must be sprayed onto the mark and left for 5 minutes or more in order to give the active ingredients time to dissolve the dirt and make it easier to remove. After this, the surface should be wiped with a damp sponge, then dried with a paper towel. Repeat the procedure until the area is completely clean.

Mineral substances

These are marks caused by minerals contained in liquids such as water, tea, coffee etc., which, if left to dry on the surface, leave residues of calcium or other minerals which adhere to the surface. In order to clean this type of stain, we recommend the use of a descaling detergent (decalcifying agent). The detergent should be sprayed onto the mark and left for 5 minutes or more to give the active ingredients time to dissolve the minerals and make them easier to remove. The surface should then be wiped with a damp sponge and then dried with a paper towel. Repeat the procedure until the area is completely clean.

Other types of marks

Silicone stains: must be removed using a solvent for silicone available from any hardware store. Again, the solvent should be sprinkled or sprayed onto the silicone and left to work for the time indicated in the instructions.

Pen marks: can be cleaned off using pure alcohol.

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Traces of paint: varnish or various colorants can be removed using nitro thinner. The nitro thinner must never be poured directly onto the surface, rather a rag should be dampened with it and gently rubbed over the mark.

Tips for cleaning of polished surfaces

For routine cleaning

Use a cloth dampened with water and neutral detergents.

For persistent stains

Thanks to the compactness of Quartzforms®, acid-based detergents and kitchen sponges with an abrasive side may be used. Cleaning with ethyl alcohol should however be avoided because it could leave stains which would be difficult to remove.

Unsuitable products

Products containing bleach or with a very low ph value should be avoided, as prolonged use could lead to whitish staining. Other products that may damage the surface are trichloroethylene, industrial solvents, hydrofluoric acid, caustic soda and paint solvents.

Instructions for the cleaning of opaque, velvet, sanded, coated and tatum surfaces

The polishing, sanding and coating of the slabs to obtain the opaque, velvet, tatum, sanded and coated effects is carried out mechanically using special equipment as part of the process required to obtain the various finishes and removes part of the material. These finishes in fact feature grooving or roughness which is can be visible to a greater or lesser degree and stops the material from reflecting the light like a shiny surface (pic. 1), causing them to appear opaque and feel rougher or less rough to the touch (pic. 2). The degree of roughness depends on the various finishes.

figura 1

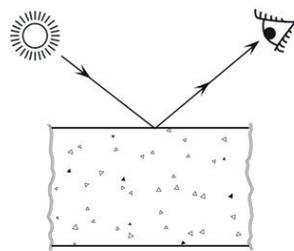
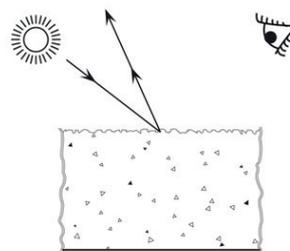


figura 2



If you look at the two diagrams illustrating a shiny finish and a smooth finish, it can be observed that the shiny surface is shown as a perfectly straight line while the opaque surface is shown as an irregular line.

This is the reason why that the surfaces which have been crafted to create a rough, velvet, tatum, sanded or coated effect, can present cleaning problems. Dirt particles, which are easy to remove from the shiny surface as there is no obstacle to this, may be deposited in the micro grooves or rough areas of other types of surface, making them difficult to remove.

Instructions for routine cleaning

All detergents normally used on shiny surfaces may be used.

Although Quartzforms® does not absorb liquids and therefore the dirt does not penetrate the material and can always be removed, we recommend that coloured liquids are removed immediately. In the case of persistent stains, acid-based detergents can be used. Cleaning with ethyl alcohol should however be avoided as it could leave difficult to remove stains.

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For limescale marks (residues of tap water, especially in hard water areas)

It is possible to use acid-based descaling products, including prolonged treatments.

For oil-based or fat stains

Kitchen de-greasing products may be used, but once the stain has been removed, it is important to rinse the area abundantly in water because in general, 'de-greasing' products are 'basic' and, if left to work on a quartz agglomerate for a long period of time may alter the surface by staining it (they act on the resin contained in it).

Resistance to stains

Product	Effect
Acetic acid (10% aqueous sol.)	no visible effect
Ammonia (10% solution)	no visible effect
red wine	no visible effect
Citric acid (10% aqueous sol.)	no visible effect
Detergent solution	no visible effect
Coffee (applied 80°)	no visible effect
Chloramine t (2,5%aqueous sol.)	no visible effect
Black marker	mark
Ethanol (48% aqueous sol.)	no visible effect
Etyl-butyl acetane (1:1)	no visible effect
Olive oil	no visible effect
Coca cola	no visible effect
Sodium bicarbonate	no visible effect
Sodium chloride (10% aqueous sol.)	no visible effect
tea (applied at 80°)	no visible effect
condensed milk	no visible effect
light beer	no visible effect

Resistance to use of domestic products

Product	Effect
Aiax bagno	no visible effect
Spic & Span	no visible effect
Mastro Lindo	no visible effect
Cif multiuse	no visible effect
Cif with bleach	no visible effect
Finish dishwasher liquid	light streaks
Fornet	no visible effect
Drago pulisan	no visible effect
Smac brillacciaio	no visible effect
Baysan multiuso	no visible effect
Denatured alcohol	no visible effect
Lyso-form kitchen	no visible effect
Viakal	no visible effect
Vetril	no visible effect
Vim liquid	no visible effect

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