

unistone[®]
quartz surfaces by Brachot-Hermant



UNISTONE[®]

Maintenance Guide





Kitchen tops in Unistone®

For kitchen tops in Unistone®, generally the same rules apply as for kitchen tops in natural stone. Unistone® is more compact, and therefore on a polished surface, impregnation products are harder to apply. On honed and 'rougher' surfaces, an extra impregnation product is recommended as a preventive protection against stains.

ATTENTION:

Do not use bleach, strong solvents, strong alkaline products (pH > 10), products based on tri-chloroethane or methylene chloride (strippers, paint removers) on Unistone® surfaces.

1. First cleaning

After installation, it is wise to clean the surface of the kitchen tops with a strong cleaner (for example Lithofin MN Power Clean - Akemi Stone Cleaner or Akemi Quartz Intensive Cleaner - HMK R155 Intensive Cleaner or HMK R185 Quarz Compound Cleaner) before applying any impregnating product.

With acetone, the surface can be cleaned from greasy stains or stains from installation products. (silicones, remnants of glue,...).



ATTENTION:

Do not leave a cloth soaked with acetone for longer periods on the surface of Unistone®! Only rub with acetone on a cloth/paper tissue and rinse with clear water after cleaning!

2. Protective products

Impregnation products enter into the superficial pores of the surfaces and create a water-repellent (hydrophobic) surface. Some impregnation products also create a water- AND oil-repellent surface (hydro- and oleo phobic). The protective treatment needs to be applied in a homogeneous manner and on a dry and clean surface..

- For **polished Unistone®-surfaces**, an extra protective treatment is usually not necessary/not recommended since the surface is so compact. Lithofin recommends only a product on alcohol-base that will refresh the shine of a polished quartz-surface, [Lithofin MN Refresh](#) (it will also protect lightly the surface, but is no impregnation product). Akemi recommends a product on a silicone-oil base that will refresh the shine of the polished quartz surface and also gives an extra protection: [Akemi Quartz Polish](#) (is no impregnation product). Moeller Stone Care (HMK) recommends regular maintenance with [HMK P305 Composite-Quartz spray cleaner](#) to create an extra protection to the polished quartz surface.

- For **Letano/Egg Unistone®-surfaces** following products can be used **Lithofin Protector S** (*only apply once by the stone mason after cleaning of the surface and after production, not for use by private persons*) - **Akemi Stain Repellent Super** or **Akemi Darkener Super** (*only apply by the stonemason after cleaning*) - **HMK S246 Composite-Quartz Stain Protection** or **HMK S748 Stain Protection Premium Colour**.

For such very compact surfaces it is very important that the surplus of impregnation product is removed from the surface (see also instructions from the manufacturers).

It is important that the surface is completely saturated. This can be easily tested 24 hours after applying the impregnation product by pouring some water on the surface. If the surface become more dark after 15-20 minutes, the surface is not yet completely saturated and needs to be treated extra with the impregnation product.



3. Cleaning of stains and regular maintenance

Lots of “stains” on Unistone®-surfaces are rather stains ON the surface (since the surface is so compact). Such stains can be usually cleaned with **CIF Cream** or **VIM** (not for polished surfaces!), OR with for example **Lithofin MN Power Clean - Akemi Stone Cleaner** or **Akemi Quartz Intensive Cleaner** - **HMK R155 Intensive Cleaner** or **HMK R185 Composite-Quartz Intensive Cleaner**.

CIF Cream cannot be used too intensively, since it might remove the protection from for example an impregnation product from the surface. Always rinse well with mild dew water after CIF Cream applied.

For more stubborn stains: please consult the guideline for stains from the manufacturers (see attached).

Lime-rich water may cause the formation of lime-residues on Unistone[®]-surfaces, and therefore it is recommended to clean the surface periodically with a mild acid product (for example Lithofin KF Ceramic-Clean - Akemi Acid Cleaner - HMK R183 Cement Film remover for natural stone).

On polished surfaces with a minimal absorption it is not recommended to use greasy products for the regular maintenance (for example soaps for the dishes,...). These might create a greasy superficial layer on top of the Unistone[®]-surface, where imprints from glasses,... will be visible as "stains". If such a greasy, superficial layer is present, it can be removed with for example Lithofin MN Power Clean - Akemi Stone Cleaner or Akemi Quartz Intensive Cleaner - HMK R155 Intensive Cleaner or HMK R185 Composite-Quartz Intensive Cleaner.

The regular maintenance of kitchen tops can be done with for example Lithofin Easy Clean - Akemi Crystal Clean (daily use) or Akemi Quartz Clean & Care (periodical use) - HMK P305 Composite-Quartz Spray Cleaner, special sprays for the maintenance-protection-cleaning of kitchen tops.



Important remark!

All products mentioned in the text above are used as examples or illustrations. We are not liable for the solidity of the product itself and/or for the solidity of the products combined with Unistone[®]. Consult and follow the technical documentation provided by the manufacturer when using the product. Furthermore, always try to get information about how to use it together with Unistone[®] that will be installed.

These text should be considered in its entirety, no parts should be considered or published separately.

Points of attention

- Spilled liquids and/or food must be removed and cleaned from the surface as quickly as possible. Especially coffee and tea which create stains that are harder to remove due to their strong/aggressive colouring properties and also when these products are left on the Unistone® - surface for a longer period and dry-out.
- Stains that are hard to remove with just clear water and a sponge, can mostly be removed with CIF Cream (white, neutral) and a soft sponge. For NON-POLISHED surfaces, VIM can also be used.
Rub well and rinse afterwards with clear warm water.
- Products which harden after drying (chewing gum, mustard, grease, ...) must be firstly removed as much as possible with a bold plastic scraper. After this, clean with CIF Cream (white, neutral) or a mixture of vinegar and water.
- NEVER put hot pots, pans, ... directly on a Unistone®-surface.
- NEVER use bleach products or products based on ammonia, products with a pH-value higher than 10 or strong solvents on a Unistone®-surface. Certain aggressive chemicals, such as oven cleaners, can result in permanent damage of the surface. NEVER use products that contain trichloorethane or methyl chloride, such as paint removers or strippers.
- Avoid contact with marking or printing inks.



- A Unistone[®]-surface is harder than metal (for example a knife, buckle of a belt, ...). Metal-marks can stay on the surface when cutting on Unistone[®]-materials. Always use a chopping board when cutting vegetables,... to avoid metal-marks on the Unistone[®]-surface. Metal-marks can be removed with CIF Cream (white; neutral) and a soft sponge (for NOT-POLISHED surfaces, VIM can also be used).
- LOOK OUT with abrasive products (strongly scratching components) on a polished surface. Always use a soft sponge, no steel wool.
- Due to the great hardness of this material, a certain impact (falling/bouncing hard object, ...) can cause a small pit in the surface. This can be repaired with a special repair-kit for kitchen-tops in compound material/quartz surfaces (for example "RepairLux[®]" from König).
- NEVER use colour enforcing products or multiple layers of impregnation products on a Unistone[®]-surface. A film will be created that is hard to remove.
- NEVER use waxes, oils, greasy soaps or shine-improving products on a Unistone[®]-surface. A film will be created.
- After cleaning, ALWAYS rinse well with clear water! Even volatile cleaning products like acetone can leave a thin film on the surface.
- Direct sunlight (UV-rays) can alter the colour of Unistone[®]-surfaces. Never install this product outside! It is no problem to use the Unistone[®] behind a window, since glass is a sufficient UV-filter.



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