



## Concrete Benchtop Care & Maintenance Fact Sheet

Properly sealed concrete bench tops are designed to offer high performance with low maintenance. Only a little common sense is needed in caring for your Flash Concrete bench top:

- Wipe as you go, using a soft damp cloth to wipe down your bench tops. Acidic foods such as citrus fruit can damage the surface if not wiped up.
- If you encounter stubborn stains, use a mild non-abrasive cleanser.
- Avoid exposure to products with high pH levels such as oven cleaner. Rinse immediately to neutralise the effect, and then follow usual cleaning procedure.
- Avoid exposure to paint strippers, bleach and nail polish remover. Rinse immediately with clean water to neutralise the effect, and then follow usual cleaning procedure.
- Avoid exposure to high impact, especially on the edges.
- Avoid excessive weight being placed on your bench top, such as people standing on your bench top.

We recommend applying a sacrificial wax coat regularly. This extends the life of the sealer dramatically and helps with cleaning. See this link for demonstrations on how to apply floor waxes (same applies for benchtops):-<https://www.concretenetwork.com/concrete/interiorfloors/wax.html>

### Stubborn Stains and Dried Spills

Flash Concrete's high-end sealers provide great resistance to most foods used in the kitchen such as wine, fruit juices, liquid food colouring, tea and spices with strong colours. For dried spills, remove solids first. A wet cloth is recommended for any stubborn stains. If needed, use a non-acidic and non-abrasive cleanser and rinse well with water. Avoid forceful scrubbing as this may result in a loss of shine and remove the protective sealer.

### Heat Resistance

Placing hot items directly onto your polished concrete bench top is not recommended. Although it is heat resistant, excessive localised heat may result in damage to the concrete due to thermal shock. Hot cookware such as hot skillets, pots, and saucepans should always be placed onto trivets and heat mats, not directly onto the surface.

### Scratches, Cracks and Edge Chipping

Like all bench top materials, over time the sealer on concrete bench tops can develop scratches and abrasive marks. To minimise this, always use a chopping board, and avoid dragging heavy items, or items with a sharp or rough bottom on the bench top.

As with all stone bench tops, concrete is susceptible to chipping and cracking. Avoid impact on edges and the surface with hard objects. Areas around voids such as sink and oven cut-outs are weak points and can form hairline cracks. The damage is aesthetic, and not structural. A damaged counter top edge or surface (including the stone edge for an under-mount sink) is not indicative of defective material. The damage can be repaired.

### **Ongoing Maintenance**

If, over the years, your concrete bench top develops scratches, stains or signs of general wear, the surface can be rejuvenated by sanding it back and reapplying new sealer. Contact Flash Concrete regarding its ongoing maintenance programme.

Please note: This fact sheet must be read in conjunction with Flash Concrete's Warranty and Terms and Conditions.