

Porcelain & Sintered Products

What to expect

Stone Direct Solutions is an innovative, forward thinking company who embraced the use of porcelain for bench tops from its inception. Whilst there is some negativity in the marketplace about these products, Stone Direct maintains its stance that the porcelain products offer unparalleled functional and aesthetic properties that perform exceptionally well not only in kitchens but in all areas of the home.

The information below will help you to understand what to expect and how to care for your new porcelain bench top.

Why porcelain?

- Stain & scratch resistant
- Extremely durable
- Efficient heat and fire resistance
- Equal looks to natural stone
- High density and low porosity making it ideal for food preparation
- Won't fade in direct sunlight

Things you should know about porcelain

- It can be difficult to repair
- Mitred edges can have visible seams showing a line where the mitre joins
- The design is only on the surface meaning grooves reveal the base colour
- Edge options are restricted



Scratching

Porcelain is extremely strong and durable; however, it is not indestructible. Scratching is still possible with force, so protect the surface by taking some simple precautions:

- Gently clean your bench top with a soft sponge and wipe with a microfiber cloth, excessive force is not required
- Always use a chopping board to avoid utensils scratching the surface
- Always use a trivet under hot pots and pans
- Apply felt strips to the bottom of appliances to avoid scratching

Staining

Porcelain and sintered products are renowned for their high resistance to staining. The very dense surface is easy to maintain, however, care still needs to be taken to avoid staining, in particular with polished surfaces.

We apply the gloss to the slab at the end of the process. It is the softest layer of the slab so certain products may leave varying visible marks on the surface.

As a rule, we recommend satin/matt/natural finishes as the most suitable for bench tops, whilst polished can be used in low traffic areas.

Here are some simple steps to maintain the appearance of your porcelain:

- Clean spills immediately
- Clean your bench top daily with warm, soapy water using a soft sponge
- Do not use abrasive sponges
- Never drag household appliances on the surface



Will my porcelain chip or break?

Porcelain is unlikely to chip or break without cause, the most likely reasons for chipping or breaking are:

- Use associated with under mount sinks
- Standing on your bench
- The application of excessive force
- An unsupported bench top

Under mount & flush mount sinks

Chipping is a frequent occurrence with under mount sinks in all materials. Because of the properties of porcelain, it is not recommended to have an under mount or flush mount sink.