

# CONCRETE CLEANING AND MAINTENANACE

#### FIBER RE-INFORCED NATURAL CONCRETE

Our concrete products are comprised of natural materials, granite, stone powder, Portland cement, nylon net and water. Much like any natural material such as wood or stone, concrete is a porous material. We have sealed your concrete with a wax sealer that will provide active protection against staining. To ensure the lasting beauty of your concrete surfaces we recommend reviewing and practicing the following care and maintenance instructions.

#### AFTER INSTALLATION

The product has been sealed for protection against moisture and staining. Once the pieces have been waxed we recommend allowing them to remain free of objects on the surface for at least 6-12 hours. This enables the wax to penetrate the material evenly before the beginning of regular use. The wax we use is a paraffin based substance that hardens the material and protects the surface from staining.

#### **CLEANING YOUR PRODUCT**

Clean your FRC product using mild soap (such as dish soap) and water. Do not use heavy abrasive, bleach based, or ammoniated cleaners. Use of such cleaners will wear down the wax protection and result in less stain resistance. We do not recommend use of most natural cleaners (which are often citrus based), as the cleaning agent is typically highly acidic and can damage natural materials.

### REGULAR MAINTENANCE

Re-wax periodically. Waxing your product regularly is a quick and easy process that will provide additional protection against staining. Wax once within 2 months of installation of your product and every 3-6 months thereafter. Depending on use and location.

## **AVOIDING STAINS**

In the event that the coating is knowingly cut, scraped, or damaged, new wax should be re-applied. Spills should be wiped as soon as possible. While the waxing performs well against most stains, oils and acidic materials should be handled with care and/or prolonged exposure may cause penetration of the sealer and possible discoloration. Oils in particular can penetrate the surface if forced in from the weight of a glass or jar. Wiping up oil spills can minimize staining.

Expect the wear of your product to contribute to it's uniqueness. Apart from place mats and coasters using felt or rubber feet pads is recommended for the bottom surface of all objects left to remain on the surface of your product indefinitely, especially unglazed ceramics such as terracotta pots. Unglazed ceramics compete for residual moisture in the concrete and may cause discoloration. Do not place hot objects on the surface as they may cause discoloration. Using a trivet is recommended. At any point, refrain from putting blue painter's tape of other adhesives directly on the product.

Although not considered a defect, non-structural hairline cracks are possible and may result from shrinkage and the natural curing process. If hairline cracks do appear, immediately apply a thick coat of wax and rub in well to prevent moisture from seeping into the cracks and causing discoloration. Re-wax the area and surrounding surfaces periodically as detailed above.