CORIAN® SOLID SURFACE CARE AND MAINTENANCE FOR FACILITY MANAGERS

Introduction

Corian® Solid Surface meets the demanding needs of today's commercial surfacing applications. As a solid, nonporous surface, Corian® Solid Surface can be maintained with minimum care to retain the original appearance. Because it can be repaired, Corian® Solid Surface will still look and perform like a new installation, while other surfacing materials will often need to be replaced. With proper care the Corian® Solid Surface in your commercial application will stay looking like new.

For more information, call 1300 795 044.

Overview

This document provides care and maintenance guidance for end-users and facilities management. More severe damage may require professional repair.

A. ROUTINE CARE

There are three types of Corian® Solid Surface finishes: matte/ satin, semi- gloss and high-gloss. Contact your Corian® Solid Surface expert if you are unsure of your finish. Typically, lighter colours have a matte finish, while darker colours have a semi-gloss or gloss finish.

All sinks and basins are finished with a matte/ satin finish. Some guidance may vary by finish type. Clean spills promptly, many materials only stain if left in contact with the surface for extended periods.

Warm soapy water, ammonia-based cleaners or commercially available solid surface cleaners will remove most dirt and residue from all types of finishes. Avoid window cleaners, however, as they can leave a waxy build-up that dulls the surface. Experience has shown that a film builds up on the surface if water is left to dry on the benchtop. This film will dull the look of the benchtop making the finish appear blotchy and uneven. To prevent buildup of the film, it is very important to wipe the benchtop completely dry after spills and cleaning. Some Corian® colours may require more frequent cleaning to maintain a uniform finish. Darker colours tend to require more attention than lighter colours. Over time, even with proper care, your benchtop will acquire a patina, changing the appearance of the finish.

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SOLID SURFACE

CLEANING HORIZONTAL SURFACES

Most Dirt & Residue	Use soapy water, ammonia-based cleaner (not window cleaner), rinse and wipe completely dry.
Preventing Hard Water Marks	Rinse and wipe completely dry after cleaning; clean up spills before they dry.
Removing Hard Water Marks	Use cleaner formulated for removing hard water marks, such as CLR.
Disinfecting	Occasionally wipe surface with diluted household bleach - 1:100 (1 Tbsp. of bleach to 1 litre of water, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for disinfection of surfaces).

CLEANING SINKS & BASINS

Cleaning	Follow procedures above or use a mild abrasive cleanser like Jif Cream Cleanser with a Blue Scotch-Brite™ pad to remove residue. NOTE: Do Not Use a Green Scotch-Brite™ pad on the benchtop surface as this will dull the surface!
Disinfecting	Fill your sink ¼ full with diluted household bleach (1 Tbsp. bleach to 1 Litre water). Be sure to get some of the solution into the overflow opening to disinfect. Let the solution stay in the sink for 15 minutes; then wash sides and bottom as solution drains. Rinse out the sink with water.

You may restore the look of the original finish by following the refurbishing guidelines in this bulletin. Corian® Solid Surface is unaffected by common household and commercial cleaners such as:

- Powdered abrasive cleaners with bleach are suitable for matte finishes, use on semi-gloss and gloss finishes may dull the finish.
- Ammonia
- Strong detergents
- Oxalic acid solutions
- Dilute hydrochloric acid solutions
- Dilute trisodium phosphate solutions

Acid drain cleaners may cause surface damage and should not be used on Corian® Solid Surface.

Unlike other surface materials stains or marks caused by cigarettes, alcohol, food, lipstick, hair dye, shoe polish, iodine, marking pens, etc. can be removed by the instructions in this bulletin.

This type of maintenance will not harm the Corian® surface and will restore it to "like new" condition.

B. PREVENTING DAMAGE

Some chemicals are not compatible with Corian® Solid Surface. Avoid surface contact with:

- Strong chlorinated solvents
- Chloroform
- Ketones
- Methylene chloride (paint removers)
- Very strong acids such as concentrated sulfuric and hydrochloric acids
- Acid drain cleaners should not be used

Surfaces exposed to these agents should be promptly flushed with water. Contact for even a short period of time can cause surface damage, spots, or staining. Follow the recommended repair procedures described above as needed to repair and/or restore the surface to its original condition. Severe damage caused by incompatible chemical contact will require professional repair.

Additional details on other chemicals can be found in *Corian® Solid Surface Technical Bulletin - Chemical Resistance* (K-27406). Contact CASF Australia for assistance.

C. PROFESSIONAL REPAIR

End users and maintenance departments can repair minor damage and restore the finish up matte finishes. Hand finishing of higher gloss finishes requires proper tools and techniques to get a uniform finish.

The impact resistance of Corian® Solid Surface allows it to withstand harsh use without chipping, breaking, or cracking. However, if damaged due to extreme abuse, satisfactory repairs can often be made. For more severe damage and refinishing higher gloss surfaces professional repair is recommended.

Contact CASF Australia (www.casf.com.au or 1300 795 044) for information on how to have your Corian® Solid Surfaces professionally repaired and restored to their original finish.

D. MAKING YOUR OWN REPAIRS

The general approach is to start with nonabrasive cleansers to remove stains. To remove stains and scratches with abrasive methods it is best to start with less aggressive techniques, moving to more aggressive methods until the state of scratches removed. The surface then must be restored to its original finish.

D1. CORIAN® SOLID SURFACE

The following techniques are suitable for matte finishes. They will remove stains and scratches from all finishes, however it is difficult to uniformly restore semi-gloss and gloss finishes without professional tools and techniques.

Removing Blotchy Appearance or Fine Scratches

You may notice that the surface of your benchtop begins to look blotchy. Typically, this is caused by leaving hard water to dry on the surface which will leave a film of minerals.

- As a first step, wash with hot soapy water and dry completely. This will remove any dirt and may remove some hard water deposits.
- For a blotchy appearance from hard water deposits first use a cleaner formulated for removing hard water marks, such as CLR®.

- If the surface is clean or you are removing fine scratches, pour some mild abrasive cleanser, such as Jif Cream Cleanser on a damp sponge or cloth and rub over area using small circular motions, from the front to the back, then side to side, overlapping the circles until the entire area has been cleaned.
- Rinse the top thoroughly with clean water and wipe surface completely dry.
- Check to see if blotchiness or fine scratches our gone. If not, repeat procedure applying more pressure on the sponge or cloth.
- Continue over all affected areas until all film or fine scratches are removed.

Note**:** While this procedure may remove or minimize the look of very fine scratches, other deeper scratches may remain. They may be removed by following the procedure below or you may wish to hire a professional refinisher to refinish your benchtop. Contact the Authorized Corian® reseller from whom you purchased your Corian® solid surface product to inquire about getting a quote for refinishing

Removing Minor Cuts and Scratches

Because the beauty of Corian® Solid Surface goes all the way through, they are renewable. You can remove minor cuts and scratches yourself by following these instructions. Deeper scratches may also be removed, but repair is best done by professionals.

First, wash the area with hot soapy water and dry where the scratch is located, to remove any film on the surface.

To Restore a Matte Finish:

Use P240 grit sandpaper or 60µ paper to remove scratch. Wash to remove residue, then follow by buffing with a Scotch-Brite™ pad 7447 A VFN (maroon) pad in a circular motion.

To Restore a Semi-Gloss Finish:

It is difficult to create a uniform semi-gloss finish by hand. The following may be suitable for small sections of horizontal surfaces. Use either P grade or micron paper for the entire sequence. Do not mix types as the grid sizes are not equivalent. For larger areas, particularly were reflected light which show nonuniformity of the surface, professional finishing is recommended.

- Light colours: Use P240 grit sandpaper or 60µ paper to remove scratch. Wash and follow by P400 grit or 30µ paper. Wash to remove residue, then follow by buffing with a Scotch-Brite™ 7448 S ULF (gray) pad in a circular motion.
- Dark colours: Use P240 grit sandpaper or 80µ paper to remove scratch. Wash and follow by P400 grit or 60µ paper. Wash and follow by P600 grit or 30µ paper. Wash to remove residue, then follow by buffing with a Scotch-Brite™ 7448 S ULF (gray) pad in a circular motion.

A high gloss finish is best restored by a professional. Contact your Fabricator or CASF Australia.

E. SPECIALTY APPLICATIONS

E.1 Food Service

While Corian® Solid Surface withstands heat better than most surface materials, do not place hot cookware directly on a Corian® surface. To avoid damage caused by excessive heat:

- Always use a trivet or hot pad under hot cookware
- Always use a trivet with minimum ¼" legs under small electrical appliances such as fryers and cookers. Do not use portable gas burners on the surface.
- Allow cookware to cool before placing it into a Corian® sink.
- Run cold water when pouring boiling water into a sink.

A Corian® Solid Surface can be scratched or gouged if used as a cutting or chopping surface for food preparation. Scratches can be repaired, but to avoid the problem, use of a cutting board is highly recommended. In addition, the filler in solid surface will dull knife blades.

E.2 Health Care

The healthcare environment involves the use of Environmental Surface Disinfectants and Sterilants/High Level Disinfectants. Additional details regarding these chemicals can be found in the *Corian® Solid Surface Technical Bulletin Effects of Healthcare Chemical Disinfectants* (K-22257).

An ingredient common in disinfecting wipes, quaternary ammonium salts, does not harm Corian® Solid Surface. However, when the fluid from the wipes evaporates it leaves a residue of quaternary ammonium salts behind. Over time, these can build up and create a cloudy, blotchy appearance that is particularly noticeable on darker colours. This residue can be removed with the use of hot soapy water and drying the surface.

Alcohol based hand sanitizers can damage many materials. A leaking dispenser may cause a liquid puddle under for periods greater than 16 hours, days, or more as the alcohol is stabilized to prevent evaporation. Similarly, some containers have poorly designed spouts/caps from which product leaks every time they are used, so that they stand constantly in the spilled material. If needed, a drip cup or a spill tray of a suitable material would address these situations.

E.3 Laboratories

Please see *Corian® Solid Surface Technical Bulletin - Chemical Resistance* (K-27406) for guidance on specific chemicals. This document provides the results of exposing the surface to the listed chemicals for 16 hours. Removing spills quickly will reduce the potential for staining or damage.

SOURCES FOR MATERIALS LISTED ABOVE

Jif Cream Cleanser Registered trademark of Unilever.	Major supermarkets, hardware stores
CLR® Registered trademark of Jelmar	Major supermarkets, hardware stores
Scotch-Brite™ Registered trademark of 3M Company	Blue - Local Retail, Maroon and Gray – CASF Australia, Online or through specialty retailers.

F. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

Corian® Solid Surface Technical Bulletin - Effects of Healthcare Chemical Disinfectants (K-22257).

Corian® Solid Surface Technical Bulletin - Chemical Resistance (K-27406)

PLEASE VISIT WWW.CASF.COM.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CORIAN® SOLID SURFACE

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