

## Information and maintenance instructions for hard rock

– Handling and maintenance of parts made of granite, quartzite, natural stone etc. –

### 1 GENERAL

Hard rocks are popular materials in the building industry, used especially for creating a contemporary, natural and authentic look. Hard rocks are available with many different surface structures and in a very wide variety of colours. The colour spectrum of the popular material, granite, varies e. g. from light grey, bluish and reddish specimens to granite types with a yellowish shade. Hard rocks are natural rocks, extremely robust, durable and versatile, they are used mainly for worktops, wash basins and window ledges.

### 2 PRE-REQUISITES

Please adhere to the following requirements to achieve a long-lasting durability of all parts made of hard rock:

- Keep the surfaces clean. Avoid residues of foodstuffs, spices and cleaning agents;
- Ensure that the surfaces remain undamaged; avoid damage while cleaning or during use or repairs that may be caused by sharp-edged objects;
- Hard rocks are generally more resistant to acids (e. g. juices, wine, carbon dioxide, acidic cleaning agents) as compared to many other rock types. However, a certain amount of damage may be caused depending upon the type of stone, acid and duration of exposure, mainly on the surface (e. g. loss of shine, discolouration, greying, rusting). For this reason, avoid longer exposure of the surface to acidic agents. While using acidic cleaning agents, observe the manufacturer's instructions and check beforehand whether the agent is suitable for hard rock.

**NOTE |** All natural stones absorb liquids because of their crystalline structure and then release them again through the process of evaporation. For this reason, water might temporarily create dark spots.

### 3 CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Appropriate maintenance is another condition for achieving a long-lasting durability of your hard rock. Please read the following cleaning and maintenance instructions carefully:

#### 3.1 TREATMENT FOR PROTECTION

We recommend that you soak the hard rock with AKEMI Anti-Fleck (water-, grease- and oil-repellent). However, this treatment does not provide any sealing and no layer is formed on the hard rock. The specific properties of the stone and its breathability are retained completely. As a result of this treatment, the stone assumes oil- and grease-repellent qualities and is also protected to a large extent against spots; or even if spots appear, they can be cleaned easily after the impregnation. Ensure that oils, grease, colourants (e. g. beetroot, grape juice, berries) and impurities (e. g. residues of spices, cleaning agents) do not remain on the surface. Wipe off this spillage as quickly as possible.

**TIP |** Regular impregnation can optimise this effect. Depending upon the usage, we recommend that the process of impregnation be repeated once or twice every year.

#### 3.2 REGULAR MAINTENANCE

Clean the hard rock parts ideally with warm water using a suitable cleaning agent. It is recommended that the warm washing water be mixed with one dosage of AKEMI stone soap. Thus, cleaning becomes effortless and essential care substances are also supplied to the stone. This increases the resistance of the stone and keeps it in good condition. Occasionally, treat the surface with AKEMI stone care agent, no. 10 CFC-free. The additional care helps the process of impregnation and provides fresh shine. Avoid using strong grease-dissolving all-purpose cleaners or soft soaps. They leach the stone, generate residues and hence promote soiling. Even scouring powders, foam abrasives, scourers etc. may damage the hard rock.

**NOTE |** The cleaning agents used must be approved for the food industry. The above mentioned AKEMI products are harmless and can be used in the food industry. This is confirmed in the analysis reports by the Research and Material Testing Organisation Baden-Württemberg. The following applies to all cleaning agents: Before use, always test the cleaning agent on a small inconspicuous area to check if the cleaning product or procedure you have opted for has the desired effect.

#### 3.3 SPECIAL CONTAMINATION

Use AKEMI stone cleaner for removing spots on your granite, which may be caused by felt pens, nail polish, wax crayons, colours etc. If your worktop comes in contact with acid or acidic foodstuffs or cleaning agents, please thoroughly wipe off the liquid to be on the safe side and then rinse with clear water.

**PLEASE NOTE |** The maintenance/cleaning instructions are based on many years of experience and conform to state-of-the-art cleaning technology, so far known by the manufacturer at the time of manufacture. No liability will be accepted for completeness, correctness and usability. In addition to these instructions, the instructions of the manufacturer of the corresponding cleaning agent used must be taken into account.