

SOLID SURFACE COUNTERTOP CARE

This month's article is about proper care of solid-surface countertops. In recent years we have used solid-surface countertops manufactured by Dupont™ Corian®, and Vendura® Industries, Inc. Much of the following information is found on the Corian or Vendura web sites.

To determine which material your solid surface countertop is made of, go to our online Service Parts List at <http://dealer.winnebagoind.com/unitsearch/parts.htm>. Select the model year of your coach and enter the last five digits of your Winnebago Industries serial number. "Search" will bring you to an alpha list of all the parts in your vehicle. Scroll down to 'counter-top' and the part description will tell you which material you have.

Corian® Countertop

As a solid, non-porous surface, Corian® can be maintained with minimum care to retain the original appearance. Because it can be repaired, Corian® will still look and perform like a new installation, while other surfacing materials will often need to be replaced. With proper care, the Corian® surfaces will stay looking new.

Routine Care

Soapy water, ammonia-based cleaners or commercially available solid surface cleaners will remove most dirt and residue. Stubborn residue will require a little stronger cleaner. Follow the recommendations below to properly clean your Corian® solid surface application.

Conventional Cleaning

Washing with soap and water is usually sufficient to remove surface dirt or stains.

Ammonia based liquid cleaner (not window cleaner) may also be used. Always rinse the surface thoroughly and wipe dry.

Drying is an important step, preventing a build-up of soap film or cleaning residue, which can create the appearance of light scratches over time.

Stubborn soap film or cleaning residue build-up in Corian® is easily removed with abrasive cleanser and a white Scotch-Brite® pad or sponge.

For darker colors, a polish may be used to enhance the shine. For areas where there may be food contact, always use a polish formulated for food contact areas, such as Countertop Magic®. Where food contact is not a possibility, a simple furniture polish may be used. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for using the polish and for safety concerns.

Cleaning Agents

Corian® is unaffected by common household and commercial cleaners such as:

- Powdered abrasive cleansers (like Comet®)
- 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 surfaces.

Cigarette Burns & Stubborn Stains

Unlike other surface material, stains or marks caused by cigarettes, alcohol, food, lipstick, hair dye, shoe polish, iodine, marking pens, etc. can be removed by using an abrasive cleanser and a Scotch-Brite® pad.

- If the surface has a matte finish, use a green Scotch-Brite® pad

- If the surface has a gloss finish, use a white Scotch-Brite® pad

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

Repairs

Surfaces of Corian® can be repaired with no permanent damage. Tough to remove stains, fine scratches, and small cuts can be removed using standard repair techniques.

Preventing Damage

- Avoid Strong Chemicals

Some chemicals are not compatible with Corian®. 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.

Surface 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. Severe damage caused by incompatible

chemical contact will require professional repair. Contact DuPont or your supplier for assistance.

- Use Care with Hot Pans and Appliances:

While Corian® 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.

- Use a Cutting Board

A Corian® 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.

DuPont™ Corian® may be reached at 1-800-426-7426

Vendura® Countertop Care

Vendura® countertops appearance may be easily maintained, under normal circumstances, with little effort by using a spray on type window cleaner or warm, soapy water.

Since Vendura® is nonporous, any stain is only on

the surface and will nearly always disappear using the procedure indicated above. If a stain has dried on, the spray or soapy water should be allowed time to re-moisturize the area, after which the stain will wipe off. A bleach solution may also be used on the surface.

If the stain is not of a water or oil based material, it may have to be gently scraped off using a plastic material (throw away plastic knife for example), and then proceed with normal cleaning methods.

Periodically you may wish to go over the entire surface evenly with a mild abrasive cleanser such as Soft Scrub™, Bon Ami™, or Barkeeper's Friend™.

To keep your countertop looking its best and to minimize care efforts use a cutting board rather than slicing directly on your countertop. Your Vendura® cutting board will provide an easily accessible cutting surface.

Vendura® is heat resistant; however, the sudden application of a very hot material to a cold surface may cause a repairable crack. Likewise, exposure to a high heat source in a small area such as that generated by a crock pot or an electric griddle,

may cause a repairable crack. Use of a trivet is strongly recommended in these instances. Candles should not be allowed to burn directly on the Vendura® surface.

Vendura® is also chemical resistant to most substances, but exposure to harsh materials such as paint remover or oven cleaner should be avoided. In case one of these materials does contact the Vendura® surface it should be removed at once. If it is not, a professional repair or a replacement may be required.

Cuts and scratches may usually be removed easily by using a more aggressive cleansing powder such as Comet™, a moistened SOS™ pad or a white Scotch-Brite® pad. The entire surface must be gone over using the same procedure to maintain a uniform appearance. For a temporary gloss look, if you desire, a good quality furniture polish such as Pledge™ or an automotive polish (non-cleaner type) may be used.

Vendura® Customer Service may be reached at 1-800-394-4524.