

MAINTENANCE & CARE



Cleaning

Avoiding cross-contamination is paramount in the majority of manufacturing, testing, and commercial facilities, which is why performing daily cleaning is so important.

Calico Surfaces come in contact with hundreds of items and people throughout the day that transfer bacteria, dirt, grime, and oils.

Spills, dropped items, accidents, and regular messy work add to the problem, further demonstrating just how important keeping your surfaces free from residue really is.

Beyond the daily perils of working in a lab, medical facility, teaching environment, or manufacturing plant, unexpected accents happen all the time, and it isn't unusual for countertops to be among the first casualties in a newly cleaned or refreshed laboratory. To properly care for Calico Solid Surface, you'll need to know how to perform regular daily cleaning and address emergency spills and messes.

Daily Cleaning & General Cleanliness

Personnel coming in and out, items and materials being used and put away, chemicals and food products, and everything else that cycles through an office or lab each day has the potential to leave behind particulate. Basic daily cleaning to maintain general cleanliness is the best way to stay on top of the task of creating a safe, clean work environment for everyone and protecting the integrity of your work.

Germs, dirt, and stray bacteria aren't just bad for human health and the general feel of your facility – they can taint batches of products, cross-contaminate, or destroy test samples.

To maintain the basic cleanliness of your Calico Solid Surface, use the following methods:

1. Rinse with warm soapy water and a soft cloth or use a non-abrasive household cleaner
2. Rinse again with cool, clean water
3. Wipe dry with a clean, soft cloth

MAINTENANCE & CARE



Removing Crusty Residue

Not all residue will come off with a simple wipe with warm soapy water, but when substances begin to stick or become crusty, you'll need to be a bit more careful while you clean. One of the many benefits of Calico Solid Surface is that it is available in a huge range of colors and finishes, including matte, satin, semi-gloss, and gloss. The finish you choose will depend entirely on your preferred look or the needs of your facility.

Here are basic instructions to remove crusty or caked-on residue from your Calico Solid Surface. Be sure to follow the instructions for the correct finish.

- **Matte:** Because matte finish solid surface can't lose its shine (it has none), it is safe to use moderately abrasive cleaners to remove caked-on residue. Using a moderate household abrasive and a damp sponge or pad, buff off the residue using circular motions.
- **Satin:** Satin finishes can tolerate a small amount of abrasion, but too much will make the surface lose its soft appearance. Using a gentle household abrasive cleaner and a damp sponge, buff off the residue using circular motions.
- **Semi-Gloss:** Semi-gloss cannot handle abrasive cleaners, since this finish will show signs of regular scratching. To remove caked-on residue from a semi-gloss solid surface countertop, buff the surface with warm soapy water and a cleaning pad.
- **Gloss:** Gloss finish solid surface is the most susceptible to flaws, scratching, and damage, which is why it is important to avoid any kind of abrasive cleaner or cleaning products. Using a soft cloth and warm soapy water, buff off residue using circular motions.

MAINTENANCE & CARE



Removing Stains

Surface residue left for too long can create a tough, lasting stain, which is why it is important to clean daily to prevent pigment from settling into your Calico Solid Surface. In most cases, basic surface stains can be removed with daily cleanings, but some stains may require more vigorous spot cleaning.

Here's how to deal with stubborn or set-in stains:

- **Matte and Satin:** A paste made from baking soda and water typically does the trick to remove stubborn stains from matte and satin finish solid surface. Be careful not to scratch or be more vigorous than necessary while using this technique, and switch to a milder household abrasive should your countertop show signs of further discoloration or damage.
- **Semi/Gloss:** Though it is not recommended to use even mild abrasive cleaners on semi and full gloss finish solid surface countertops, it may be necessary to remove tough, set-in stains. A super gentle buffing with a pad or a similarly gentle household cleaner should do the trick.

Repairs

Calico Solid Surface is highly durable and can't be easily scratched or dented, but with years of use, small cuts and minor damage can occur. Thankfully, because solid surface is solid and monochromatic the whole way through it can easily be repaired and made to look good as new in a few quick steps.

Minor Cuts & Scratches

Scratches from heavy equipment, accidental cuts from knives or cutting utensils, and abrasions from everyday wear are easy to remove from Calico Solid Surface, and if done regularly, you can keep your countertops looking new for years. Before you jump into one of these techniques for repairing minor scratches, be sure you are following instructions for the correct surface finish.

- **Matte:** Using a semi-harsh abrasive and a damp pad, buff in tight circular motions over the affected area. Rinse and dry thoroughly with a soft cloth. Buff the dry surface with a soft cloth. This technique is called 'blending'.
- **Satin:** Using a gentle abrasive and a soft, damp sponge, buff in tight circular motions over the affected area, then rinse and towel dry as above.
- **Semi-Gloss:** Gently buff with a soft, damp sponge and. Rinse and buff with a pad. Rinse a second time and follow with a pad. Rinse and towel dry as above.
- **Gloss:** Thankfully, Calico Solid Surface is pretty hard to damage, because gloss finished countertops need to be repaired by a professional service. Don't try blending your gloss solid surface as this technique may make the issue worse.

MAINTENANCE & CARE



Deep Cuts

If your Calico Solid Surface has sustained significant damage like deep cuts or gouges, it is easy to refinish the surface to restore its look and feel. Calico Solid Surface is solid all the way through, and your solid surface fabricator can easily grind down and refinish every few years to keep your countertops looking fresh.

Maintenance

Want to avoid needing to buff your Calico Solid Surface or having it refinished? With proper maintenance, it's easy to keep your countertops looking and feeling flawless. Here are a few techniques you can use to maintain the look of your solid surface while avoiding damage:

Heat Protection

While Calico Solid Surface is a highly durable material that can handle extreme temperatures, it is best to avoid coming in contact with extremely hot items or surfaces. In a food prep facility, for example, a hot pan should be placed on a trivet, a cloth, or some other heat protecting accessory to prevent warping, damage, or discoloration.

Preventing Stains

Removing stains from Calico Solid Surfaces is relatively easy, but if you can avoid buffing out your countertops, you should. To prevent stains from setting in and becoming permanent or stubborn, be sure to clean up messes when they happen, perform daily cleaning, and use protective gear and special care when handling harsh chemicals.

Scratches & Cuts

To avoid cutting, scratching, or scuffing your solid surface, never use knives or harsh objects directly on the material. Keep wood or plastic mats and cutting boards for any required cutting, and avoid dragging heavy items across the surface to prevent inadvertent scratches.

What To Avoid When Cleaning Solid Surface

In addition to doing all the things you'll need to do to maintain solid surface, it is important to also know what not to do when cleaning your solid surface countertops. Certain cleaners and solvents can be too harsh or damaging for use on solid surfaces, and several issues can arise if other issues are left unattended.

Here's what you should avoid to keep your solid surface looking great:

- DO NOT place hot items (like pots and pans) directly on solid surface. Use a trivet or heat pad.
- DO NOT use paint thinner or acetone-based solvents to remove residue.
- DO NOT cut directly onto solid surface countertops. Use a cutting board.
- DO NOT sit, stand, walk, or drag particularly heavy objects over solid surface.