

# CARE & MAINTENANCE

## EXTERIOR

### GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- For Exterior Applications: flashing and proximity to metal or water may require additional attention or maintenance
- Graffiti/Spray Paint: paint and graffiti removal products can be used. Pressure washing can be used for extreme situations, but may alter the factory surface slightly. A more matte finish will be left by this process. Over time, the variation will blend with the natural oxidation process.
- Applied finishes or sealers are not recommended as they will tend to flake and deteriorate from UV exposure.
- Normal wear and tear due to elements will change the surface over time and oxidize in a similar way to cedar siding.

## EXTERIOR

### GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- Richlite® is stain resistant to most common substances on interior applications.
- In residential applications, some raw meat juice (such as liver), high-alkaline fruit or vegetables (such as papaya and red beets), red wine and high-alkaline soaps (such as automatic dishwasher powder and oven cleaners) may cause staining when left in contact for a prolonged time.
- The lighter colors of Richlite® will show stains more than the darker colors. Additionally, grout (high alkaline) will lighten darker-colored Richlite® counters and darken the lighter tones.
- Avoid using bleach products or abrasive powdered cleaners. It is good to avoid using the abrasive side of sponges as this may also scratch the surface of a Richlite® countertop.
- Generally speaking, Richlite® resists stains quite well. With stubborn stains, try a non-abrasive household cleaner. A unique stain remover is plain yogurt, applied only on the stain area. Let sit over night for 3-4 applications, wiping away in the mornings, to lighten stains.

### MILL SURFACE

- Often requires very little maintenance due to textured surface.
- Wet rag (soap & water) for other applications.
- Cleaning agents may affect the surface which is not protected by an applied finish.
- Repairs – very difficult to repair as the textured surface will show any changes and cannot be reproduced.

### LEATHERED SURFACE

- Warm water and sponge for daily cleaning. Mild soap can be used if needed.
- Richlite® Care + Maintain can be used to renew the look and feel of the finish.
- Repairs – Richlite® Hard Wax Oil is a very good spot repair product that can be applied by the end user. Wipe on a small amount and buff into adjacent areas. Allow to dry for 24-48 hours before full use. It is compatible with Richlite® Care + Maintain and blends very well to a similar finish.
- Do not sand the surface as it will disturb the factory surface which cannot be reproduced. Minimal Scotch-Brite® work can be done prior to applied finishes.

## CARE & MAINTENANCE

### SANDED SURFACE

- Warm water and sponge for daily cleaning. Mild soap can be used if needed.
- Richlite® Care + Maintain can be used to renew the look and feel of the finish.
- Repairs – Richlite® Hard Wax Oil is a very good spot repair product that can be applied by the end user. Wipe on a small amount and buff into adjacent areas. Allow to dry for 24-48 hours before full use. It is compatible with Richlite® Care + Maintain and blends very well to a similar finish.
- Refinishing should be advised by the dealer or fabricator who installed the surface. In most cases, it is preferable if the trained installer refinishes the surface.
- Light scratch marks and burn marks can be refinished using a Scotch-Brite® pad (#7447/Red Color) with a random orbital sander.
- It is important to note, spot refinishing will be noticeably lighter compared to the surrounding surface area. Richlite® surfaces are made of layers of paper, which, like wood, will patina or darken over time in most colors (not as much with black material). The area will eventually patina and match the remainder of the counter surrounding it. In order to avoid discoloration in affected areas, sanding and refinishing the entire surface is required.