

Sensa by Cosentino®

PRODUCT MANUAL



PROTECTED GRANITE

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WHAT IS SENSА?

Sensa is the natural granite surface from Cosentino, a high-quality surface with such reliable performance that it comes with a certified 15-year guarantee.

We travel as far as Brazil and India to find the most beautiful stone nature can create. We make our selections using strict criteria of aesthetic excellence and we obtain unique, elegant surfaces with an exotic touch, but never excessive.

Sensa by Cosentino® is a line of countertops from Cosentino. Its success is based on its ability to repel stains, and it represents a radically new concept in the granite industry. It offers the ultimate protective treatment to reduce stainability of the material, while always maintaining a visually attractive appearance.

FORMAT

- The minimum size for the slabs is 2.50 x 1.50 m
- They have a thickness of 2 or 3 cm
- The slabs are treated on their surface

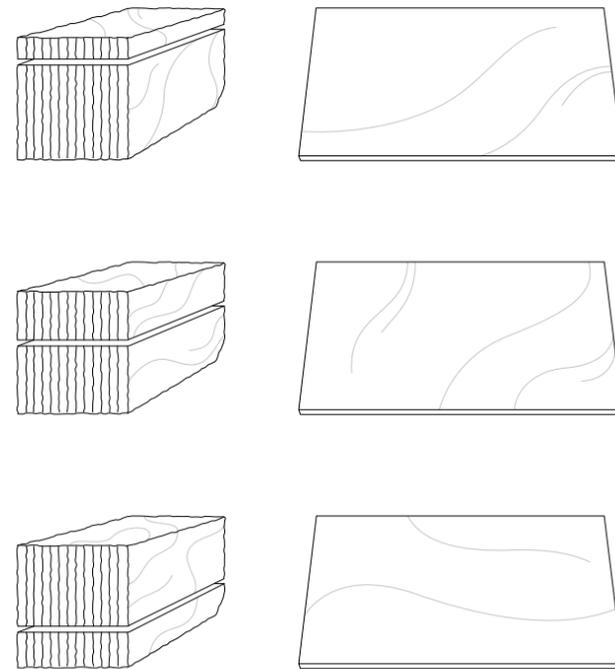
We have added a revolutionary treatment to the power and personality of granite, so you can always keep your kitchen looking brand new in a convenient and efficient manner.

Our Sensa granites are never modified in terms of the color and beauty of the stone. Thanks to the new treatment we apply, these pieces offer innovative qualities such as high stain resistance, but without ever altering the appearance or the feel of the stone.

The Sensa by Cosentino® brand represents a line of granite products with high added value. There is no special maintenance required and they are certified for contact with foods to ensure that you can always have peace of mind when it comes to safety in your kitchen.

A UNIQUE AND EXCLUSIVE DESIGN

Sensa is a collection of natural materials, so each slab is completely unique. This also means that there may be variations in the tone and structure of the color from one slab to the next.



THE SENSА TREATMENT

Sensa is a protective treatment used to reduce the stainability of the material. Sensa is not a sealer, and it binds to the surface of the granite in a manner different from conventional sealers.

The Sensa treatment, unlike other sealing products, allows the granite to breathe. It anchors itself by penetrating the structure of the stone, while preserving the natural colour and beauty.

SENSА

- After the initial application there is no need to seal again later
- Chemical binding to the stone, allowing it to breathe
- Remains bound to the structure and is durable over time
- Not affected by common cleaning agents

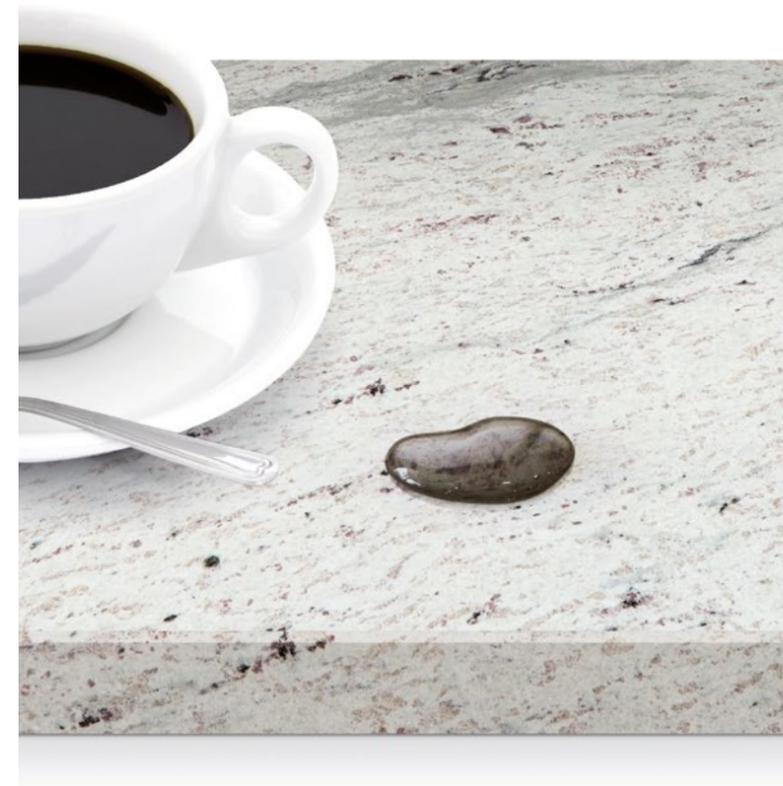
Thanks to its low molecular weight, Sensa reacts with the granite to become integrated into its molecular structure by chemical bonding.

Conventional sealers have a large molecular structure that interacts with the surface via electrostatic forces that are much weaker than Sensa.

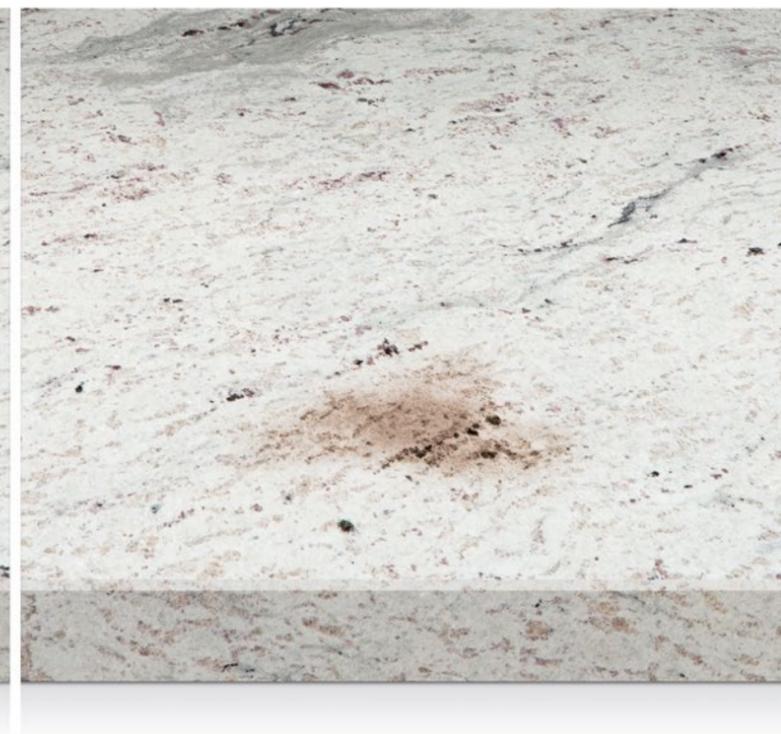
OTHER SEALERS

- Require repeated applications every year
- Coat the surface, entering into the pores and blocking the porosity of the granite
- The protection wears out over time
- Common household cleaners damage the protection

SENSА
by COSENTINO®



Untreated Granite



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY DOES GRANITE HAVE TO BE SEALED?

Granite is a natural stone that is porous because of the micro-porosity found in the structure of its surface. This micro-porosity, along with surface tension, allows liquids to be absorbed. This phenomenon, known as absorption by capillary action, results in staining of the stone.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE SURFACE IS SCRATCHED OR CHIPPED?

Penetration of the Sensa treatment is variable, since it depends upon the properties of the granite. It has been verified that this penetration can go as deep as 5 mm. If the surface of the granite is chipped to a depth of more than 5 mm, this area will become more sensitive to staining, and more so if the original material is more porous.

HOW CAN THE SURFACE BE REPAIRED IF IT HAS BECOME DAMAGED?

Because of the product's high penetration capacity (it can go as deep as 5 mm), there is no need to do anything in most cases. However, in extreme cases the product must be reapplied in the damaged area, and we recommend that this work should be performed by a specialist in order to achieve the best results.

WHAT IF THERE IS EXCESS PRODUCT ON THE SURFACE?

If a non-uniform application of the treatment causes excess product to appear on the surface, this can be removed by rubbing with a dry cloth, as long as the product has not yet dried.

IS THE MATERIAL RESISTANT TO SCRATCHING?

As explained above, since no surface layer is created the resistance to scratching is the same as for the stone underneath. The treated stone can measure up to 7 on the Mohs hardness scale (depending on the granite).

HOW SHOULD THE SURFACE BE MAINTAINED?

The surface does not need any maintenance. To keep the surface looking brand new, you just need to give it a regular cleaning using the methods described in the "preventive maintenance" section.

CAN THE SURFACE GET STAINED ONCE IT HAS BEEN TREATED?

The treatment is not bomb-proof. However, what we do guarantee for the treatment is that the stone will not be altered as long as the maximum exposure times to staining agents are not exceeded.

IS THE PROTECTION ON THE SURFACE THE SAME AS ON THE EDGES?

No. The surface protection is applied at our factory, while protection for the edges is applied by hand after production. However, both treatments will perform the same as long as the recommended application methods are followed.

CAN THE SEALED PRODUCT BE USED OUTDOORS?

Yes. The product we use performs well when exposed to solar radiation and UV rays.

CAN THE SENSa TREATMENT BE USED ON PAVING STONES AND STONE FACADES?

Yes, the product can be used on paving stones and stone facades. However, you must take into consideration that the degradation produced by walking on the product is very high, and at a certain point it may degrade enough to create an area where the product is no longer effective (wear goes deeper than the penetration).

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

The Sensa treatment means that the stone requires almost zero maintenance and it provides a high resistance to staining. To keep the surface looking brand new, it must be cleaned regularly using a few drops of pH-neutral cleaner or a gentle dish detergent. The best results are obtained by cleaning with a damp cloth and warm water, rubbing softly to avoid abrasion of the surface layer. After cleaning the surface must be rinsed with water and dried.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Do not place very hot objects directly on the countertop. We recommend using a trivet to prevent marking of the stone.
- If you spill any liquids on the countertop, dry them up as soon as possible.
- Avoid cutting directly on the countertop, since this may cause scratching.
- Never use very abrasive cleaning tools such as metal scouring pads. Rub the surface gently to prevent scratching.
- Do not use very acidic or alkaline cleaning products, since these could damage the surface layer.

CLEANING OF STAINS

Next we will describe some of the possible cleaning agents and methods:

OXALIC ACID

This is sold as a liquid and can be found in pharmacies and drugstores. It is fairly aggressive, so we recommend that you use it only with great caution.

AMMONIA

If you use ammonia for cleaning, be very careful not to mix it with any type of bleach, since this can produce a chemical reaction that generates a toxic gas. Clean the stain by rubbing it with a dampened cloth.

BAKING SODA (SODIUM BICARBONATE)

This should be mixed with water to form a paste, which can then be applied to the stain using a cloth.

DETERGENTS

Any common detergent such as those sold in supermarkets can be a good option. It should be diluted in water and then applied to the stain.

BLEACH

You must take the same precautions as described for ammonia. As far as application, clean the stain by rubbing it with a dampened cloth.

HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

This is sold as a liquid and can be found in pharmacies and drugstores.

POULTICES

You can take maximum advantage of many cleaning agents by applying them as a poultice, since this can remove stains that have penetrated into the stone to a greater depth.

But what is a poultice? It is an absorbent material applied to a surface to remove a stain. It can be a powder, paper-type, or gel.

Most poultices used these days are in the form of a powder. Some powders are very absorbent and are ideal for removing certain types of stains. Some of the most commonly used powder-based poultices are:

- Clay
- Talc
- Chalk
- Sepiolite (magnesium hydrosilicate)
- Diatomaceous earth
- Methyl cellulose
- Flour

The best options are usually clay and diatomaceous earth. Do not use chalk or clay if they contain iron, because if you use acidic chemical products they will react with the iron and may cause yellow discoloration on certain stone surfaces. It is best to acquire the poultice from a recognized supplier.

Some paper-type poultices are:

- Cotton balls
- Paper towels
- Gauze pads

For less serious stains, paper-type poultices can be quite effective. They are as easy to apply as a powder-type poultice and are also easy to remove.

Gel-based poultices are usually dense chemical products designed to be applied to a stain by using powders or paper. They work well with certain types of stains. When purchasing poultice materials you must ask whether they contain chemical stain removers or if you need additional chemical products.

Some powder and gel poultices already contain chemical products and you only need to add water. Never mix additional chemical products with a poultice that already contains its own formulation. In order for a poultice to work properly you must allow it act for at least 24 hours.

FINISHING THE EDGES AFTER PRODUCTION

Once the edges of the countertop have been created they must be protected in the same manner as the rest of the piece.

PREPARING THE EDGES

Before applying a new layer of sealer, you must clean the edges well to ensure there are no impurities between the sealer and the stone. We recommend using a damp cloth or paper towel with a few drops of liquid detergent.

This cleaning must be performed in an environment free from impurities so that these are not deposited onto the clean surface. You must apply the product when the surface is completely dry, to prevent any moisture from remaining within the stone when the sealer is applied.

APPLYING THE PROTECTION

The protection is applied by first pouring some of the product onto a cloth (never pour it directly onto the material). Then apply the product in a uniform manner across the entire surface to be treated. The treated surface must have a shiny appearance for 3 to 5 seconds once the product has been applied. Avoid any contact with nearby areas.

Once the product has been applied you must let it dry for approximately 5-10 minutes. Once this amount of time has passed, repeat application of the product. Once the second application has dried, remove any excess product using a dry cloth.

Once the second layer has been applied, do not use or handle for at least 24 hours.

PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING AND HANDLING THE PRODUCT

Manufacturers and installers of Sensa must, as a minimum, comply with all laws and regulations on the subject of occupational health and safety, and also with the information contained in our "Guide to Best Practices".

Cosentino also recommends that installers should become familiar with the standards produced by the European Network on Silica (NEPSI), while also applying the contents of Technical Prevention Note NTP 890 from Spain's National Institute on Occupational Health and Safety (<http://www.insht.es>)

CONTACT WITH THE PRODUCT

GENERAL

In case of any concerns, or if symptoms persist, seek medical attention. Never administer anything by mouth to an unconscious person.

INHALATION

Remove the accident victim into a location with fresh air, and keep them warm and at rest. If their breathing is irregular or if it stops, practice artificial respiration. Do not administer anything by mouth. If the victim is unconscious, put them into an appropriate position and seek medical attention.

CONTACT WITH THE EYES

Flush the eyes with plenty of clean, fresh water for 10 minutes while holding the eyelids open. If any symptoms persist, seek medical attention.

FIRE SUPPRESSION MEASURES

FIRE EXTINGUISHING METHODS

We recommend: alcohol-resistant foam, carbon dioxide, powder, or sprayed water. We do not recommend: a direct stream of water.

CONTACT WITH THE SKIN

In general, the product does not irritate the skin. If general contact occurs, remove any contaminated clothing and wash the skin carefully with soap and water or with a suitable skin cleanser. Never use solvents or thinners.

INGESTION

If accidentally ingested, seek medical attention. Keep the victim at rest. Never induce vomiting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fire may produce dense black smoke. Exposure to decomposition products may be hazardous to your health. Use of appropriate respiratory equipment may be necessary.

Use water to keep any containers exposed to fire cool. Prevent fire suppression agents from flowing into drains or watercourses.



PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING AND HANDLING THE PRODUCT

IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENTAL SPILL

Eliminate any possible ignition sources and ventilate the area. Avoid breathing the fumes. Use the safety measures listed above.

Use absorbent, non-flammable materials to stop and clean up the spill (e.g., dirt, sand, vermiculite, diatomaceous earth). Place the product and the absorbent materials into an appropriate container so they can then be disposed of in compliance with the local regulations. Prevent the spill from flowing into drains or watercourses. Clean the area, preferentially using detergent and avoiding the use of solvents.

If the product contaminates lakes, rivers, or drainage systems, notify the appropriate authorities.

CONTROLLING PERSONAL EXPOSURE

TECHNICAL MEASURES

Provide adequate ventilation, which can be done by using a good local extract ventilation system. If this is not sufficient to keep the concentrations of particles and solvent fumes below the occupational exposure limits, you must use respiratory protection equipment designed for crystalline silica, such as class P3 masks for particles, along with protective eyewear and all other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

HANDLING AND STORAGE

The fumes are heavier than air and may spread out across the floor. They can create explosive mixtures with the air. Avoid creating concentrations of flammable or explosive fumes in the air. Never allow the concentration of fumes to exceed the occupational exposure limits.

The prepared product must only be used in areas where all open flames and other ignition sources have been eliminated. Electrical equipment and lighting must be protected according to the appropriate standards and regulations.

Keep the container tightly closed, away from sources of heat, sparks, or fire. Do not use any tools that could produce sparks.

Prevent the prepared product from coming into contact with the skin or eyes. Avoid inhaling the fumes or the mist that is produced when spraying.

If the product comes into contact with the skin or eyes, flush with plenty of water.

Never use pressure to empty the containers, since they are not pressure-resistant receptacles.

There must be no smoking, eating, or drinking in the application zone.

Always comply with all legislation on occupational health and safety.

Store the product in containers made from a material identical to the original ones.

Whenever technicians are inside the product application booth, whether they are applying the product or not, and the ventilation is not sufficient to continuously control the concentration of particles and solvent fumes, the technicians must use respiratory equipment with supplied air until the concentrations of particles and solvent fumes are below the exposure limits.

In the event of a spill, prevent the product from flowing into any drains and try to dry up the spill as soon as possible.



imagine & anticipate



PROTECTED GRANITE



THE ORIGINAL QUARTZ

COSENTINO

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* See the specific terms and conditions for the guarantee.

** You can find information about colors with NSF certification at www.nsf.org