

## **SEAT + HUTCH OUTDOOR CONCRETE MAINTENANCE - FIBER REINFORCED NATURAL CONCRETE (FRC)**

Seat + Hutch's FRC concrete products are comprised of natural materials only: granite stone powder, cement, natural jute fibers and water. Much like any natural material such as wood or stone, concrete is a porous material. We have sealed your concrete with a wax sealer that will provide active protection against staining. To ensure the lasting beauty of your concrete surfaces we recommend reviewing and practicing the following care and maintenance instructions.

### **AFTER INSTALLATION**

Your Seat + Hutch's FRC product has been sealed for protection against moisture and staining. Once the pieces have been installed, we recommend that you wax the surface, allowing it to dry for 6 to 12 hours. We recommend using a paraffin wax and reapplying once per season for optimal results.

### **CLEANING YOUR SEAT + HUTCH FRC STONE PRODUCT**

Clean your Seat + Hutch's FRC product using mild, liquid soap and water. Do not use heavy abrasive, bleach-based, or ammoniated cleansers as these will wear down the wax. Natural cleansers (especially containing citrus oils) are NOT recommended, as the cleaning agent is typically highly acidic and can damage natural materials.

### **WAX FINISH - REGULAR MAINTENANCE**

Waxing your product regularly is a quick and easy process that will provide additional protection against staining. Wax once within 2 months of installation of your product and every 3 to 6 months thereafter, depending on use and location. If the product is placed outside, wax it well before winter. Cover and raise it off the ground or store it indoors during the off-season, especially in cold areas with snow and high moisture levels.

### **AVOIDING STAINS**

Regular food preparation will not stain the concrete as the sealer and wax serve as active barriers. In the event that the coating is knowingly cut, scraped, or damaged, new wax should be reapplied. Spills should be wiped up as soon as possible. While the waxing performs well against stains from oils and acidic materials, prolonged exposure may cause penetration of the sealer and possible discoloration. Expect occasional rings to appear from unknown liquids. Oils in particular can penetrate the surface if forced in from the weight of a glass or jar. Wiping up oil spills can minimize staining. Please note that bath oils in particular should not be used as they will cause staining from being left in contact with the surface of the concrete for too long. The first stain is always the worst. Expect the wear of your product to contribute to its uniqueness. Using felt or rubber feet pads is recommended for the bottom surfaces of all objects left to remain on the surface of your product indefinitely, especially unglazed ceramics such as terracotta pots. Unglazed ceramics compete for residual moisture in the concrete and may cause discoloration. Do not place hot objects on the surface as they may cause discoloration. Using a trivet is recommended. At any point, refrain from putting blue painter's tape or other adhesives directly on the product. Although not considered a defect, non-structural hairline cracks are

possible and may result from shrinkage and the natural curing process. If hairline cracks do appear, immediately apply a thick coat of wax and rub in well to prevent moisture from seeping into the cracks and causing discoloration. Re-wax the area and surrounding surfaces periodically as detailed above.

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS WHAT SHOULD I USE TO CLEAN MY SEAT + HUTCH 'S FRC PRODUCT?**

We recommend using a mild, non-abrasive, non-ammoniated soap for daily cleaning. Stone soap may also be used for ongoing maintenance and conditioning.

#### **IS CONCRETE ALWAYS SEALED?**

Concrete is sealed and waxed to protect it from staining and moisture. The level and kind of sealer or wax varies per project. We recommend re-waxing every 3 months and re-sealing with a water-based acrylic every 5 years. Expect your FRC product to develop a patina and improve with time.

#### **WILL CONCRETE CRACK?**

Although not considered a defect, non-structural hairline cracks are possible and may result from shrinkage as the concrete fully cures.

#### **IS CONCRETE STRUCTURALLY REINFORCED?**

Using a proprietary casting process, each piece is custom reinforced with natural jute fibers resulting in a product with extremely high strength at only a fraction of the weight of typical concrete.