

MANTEL CARE

Your mantel is made from DMD's proprietary gypsum-based cement mix. Our mix makes a mantel that is beautiful and durable. With proper care, the mantel will look great for years to come. Follow these guidelines for proper care and maintenance of your mantel.

Sealing

Sealing the mantel is not a necessity, but can provide some protection. We recommend OKON W-1 or W-2 acrylic-siloxane penetrating sealer, by Zinnser. After applying the product, test it by sprinkling water on the surface. If it soaks in, apply a second time, or until the water sits on top. What we like about this product is that it doesn't affect the surface appearance as much as other sealers we've tried, and it's very effective.

Cleaning/Stains

DO NOT USE A METAL BRUSH ON THE MANTEL

Basic cleaning should be done dry with a duster or rag. If more cleaning is needed, mild soap and water can be used with a damp rag. Avoid dripping large amounts of water on the mantel. Since the mix of the mantel is pourous, it will soak up water easily, and it will take several days to dry.

Spills and stains should be dealt with as soon as possible. The method used will depend on the type of stain.

Coffee Tea, or various food and drink stains: Mr. Clean is our first choice for stains.

Followed by Bleach (for coffee stains), and finally Bar Keepers friend contains oxalic acid and must be used with caution, but as a last resort.

Red wine, Grape juice or acidic red/purple stains. These are tough, and we highly recommend that you keep these drinks away from your mantle. Clean up any spills immediately, as these acids can eat into the surface.

Paint: Use either a methylene chloride or non-methylene chloride masonry paint stripper such as PROSOCO Safety Peel

Smudges/Marks: Use 150 grit and 220 grit sandpaper to remove. The color of the mantel is a part of the mix, so there is no danger of sanding it away.

Chips & Cracks

Chips, cracks, and other minor damage can be fixed using a patch material provided by DMD. Please contact Distinctive Mantel Designs, and reference the color of your mantel to obtain the patch material.