



HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR REFINISHED BATHTUB AND COUNTER TOP

By Tom Dewell, Commercial Bath Refinishing

Congratulations! Your countertop and/or bathtub has been refinished and it's beautiful. You should have many years of enjoyable use and trouble-free maintenance as long as you care for it properly and use recommended products to clean and maintain the surface.

These are general guidelines for caring for your refinished surface and should not replace the care and cleaning instructions provided by the company that refinished your fixture; always check with your refinisher if you have any specific questions or concerns.

In most cases a refinished surface requires 24 to 48 hours (at room temperature) until it should be used normally again. Although the refinished surface can be put back into full use after this time, the surface may actually continue to harden for up to 30 days.

Use the same care for your refinished surface you would use to wash the hood of a new car. Never use abrasive cleaners. The refinished surface is non-porous; a mild, non-abrasive soap combined with a soft cloth and water will clean your refinished surface.

The best way to care for and maintain your refinished bathtub is to wipe it down with a towel after each use. Regular cleaning is important to prevent dirt and soap scum build-up that will hide the beauty of the finish. For normal everyday cleaning, you should use a mild soap and water with a soft wash cloth.

Should you wish to use a product not listed below, test on small area in a corner before applying to the entire surface. Always review individual cleaner's instructions, and always rinse thoroughly after cleaning. Any plastic cleaning pad or brush designed for use on Teflon surfaces also works well. Do not allow any cleaners to remain on the surface for an extended period of time before thoroughly rinsing off.

All newly refinished surfaces will have some surface dust which will have settled into the new surface. Because the surface is still within its long-term cure period, normal use and regular cleaning will remove all minor surface dust marks.

Cleaning Products:

Recommended cleaning products for refinished surfaces include Formula 409, Dow, Scrub Free, Fantastic, Windex, Mr. Clean, Bon Ami, and dishwashing soaps such as Dawn, Joy, and Ivory. In extreme cases where the recommended cleaners do not work, use diluted mild abrasive cleaners such as Soft Scrub or Liquid Comet.

Do not use Comet or Ajax, steel wool, wire brushes, harsh abrasives, bleach, ammonia or cleaners containing ammonia, or scratch pads. Use of these chemicals could cause a dull surface and/or an easily recognizable chemical crack, or could cause the refinished surface to peel and void the warranty.

Drain Cleaners:

Liquid drain cleaners are recommended over powders and/or crystal. However, when using liquid drain cleaning agents bail the standing water out of the bathtub and remove the drain plug. Use a funnel to prevent spills and apply the chemicals directly down the drain. Always make sure that chemicals do not come in contact with the new surface. Use drain cleaners sparingly so that they do not boil out and attack the new surface.

Other Useful Tips:

- Do not lay soap, bottles or any other objects on the finished surface. In your bathtub, a hanging shower caddy or shelf works well to store these things away from the surface.
- Do not drop sharp or heavy objects on the finish, which may cause it to chip. Contact your refinishing company immediately for repairs if this should occur. Failure to do so in a timely manner can result in further damage and could void the warranty.
- Be sure that your faucets are dry and not dripping after using the fixture. Faucets should be properly maintained by the owner and user to protect the new surface. Leaky faucets will erode the new finish, causing it to crack and wear out prematurely.
- Do not use a rubber bath mat. Most mats will produce a reaction with the new surface when subjected to hot water. Your refinishing company should carry slip-resistant mats and surfaces which will give years of trouble-free service. These mats are warranted; ask your refinishing company for details.
- Do not place hot pots or pans directly on kitchen counter surface and do not cut on kitchen counters. Either could damage the counter and void the warranty.

Refinishing is an excellent, affordable way to keep counters, tubs and sinks looking good for years to come. Taking proper care of these surfaces will extend the life of the fixture and maximize your investment.



About the author: Tom Dewell, President of Commercial Bath Refinishing, has a BS Degree in Business Management from San Diego State University and has been in the bathtub and counter top refinishing business for over twenty years.