artisan EXTERIOR

SEALING & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

LIMESTONE

LIMESTONE SEALING & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Limestone is a sedimentary rock composed largely of the minerals calcite and aragonite, which are different crystal forms of calcium carbonate (CaCO3).

Most limestone is com- posed of skeletal fragments of marine organisms such as coral or foraminifera.

Sealing limestone is highly recommended as stain removal can be limited due to its porosity and chemical sensitivity

SEALING:

PRE-SEALING:

Sealing limestone prior to installation is highly recommended. Many Limestones contain soluble minerals and can often become permanently discoloured from the installation process.

It is always best to consult with your stone supplier to verify whether your lime- stone requires this treatment. For best results, sealing limestone on all six sides using Aqua Mix® ProBlock a minimum of 24 hours prior to installation.

PRE-GROUT SEALING (IF NOT PRE-SEALING):

If the stone does not require to be pre-sealed, it is generally recommended to apply a coat of sealer using Aqua Mix® ProBlock on the surface prior to grouting. This is to act as a grout release and assist in the grout clean-up process.

NOTES:

If applying an Enhancing Sealer as the final surface seal, **DO NOT** apply ProBlock to the top surface as it will stop the penetration of enhancing sealers. Please contact Artisan Exterior or Aqua Mix® prior to installation if an enhancer is specified for use.

Artisan Exterior: www.artisanexterior.com.au

Aqua Mix: www.aquamix.com.au

GROUT HAZE REMOVAL:

It is important that all the grout haze is removed between 3-10 days. A minimum of 3 days for the grout to cure and harden, and no longer than 10 days or it may need to be mechanically removed.

Grout haze can be removed using Aqua Mix® Cement Grout Haze Remover.

It should be noted that many natural stones can react with acidic cleaners. It is always recommended that you test Aqua Mix® Cement Grout Haze Remover on a spare piece first, if epoxy grout has been used you can remove using Aqua Mix® Sealer & Coating Remover.

FINAL SEALING:

Smooth surfaces (polished, honed) should only be sealed using either a Natural Look Sealer or an Enhancing Sealer. The best sealer for all natural stone products is Aqua Mix® Sealer's Choice® Gold – Rapid Cure, however we have a range of sealers to suit your requirements:

Natural Look:

Good: Aqua Mix® Penetrating Sealer
Better: Aqua Mix® Pro-Solv®
Best: Aqua Mix® Sealer's Choice® Gold – Rapid Cure

Enhanced Look:

Good: Aqua Mix® Stone Enhancer
Best: Aqua Mix® Enrich'N'Seal

NOTES:

Sealing natural stones with our penetrating sealers will not alter the slip resistance. If you require more info, please contact Artisan Exterior or Aqua Mix® prior to installation.

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Aqua Mix: www.aquamix.com.au

MAINTENANCE:

WALLS:

Walls should be regularly cleaned using any of Aqua Mix® Routine Cleaners.

Regular use of Aqua Mix® AquaShield Cleaner & Resealer will ensure that your natural stone always maintains maximum stain resistance.

FLOORS:

- For general cleaning Aqua Mix® Concentrated Stone & Tile Cleaner can be added to your mopping liquid. This product is a safe to use pH neutral formula and leaves the room smelling clean and fresh.
- For periodic cleaning Aqua Mix® Stone Deep Clean can be used with a soft white nylon scouring pad. Follow by rinsing thoroughly.
- For heavy scuff marking or stubborn ground in dirt Aqua Mix® NanoScrub® is a powerful non scratch abrasive cleaner, formulated with Nano-sized particles that penetrate small surface pores. It is Non-toxic, non-flammable and non-acidic.

Helpful Tip: Regular use of Aqua Mix® Concentrated Stone & Tile Cleaner will help prevent a build-up of soap scum, hard water deposits and mildew.

ETCHING:

An etch is not a stain; like a scratch it effectively changes the surface of the stone. It generally appears as a light, dull mark. Contact from acidic materials like lemon juice, wine, coffee, fruit juice etc can create an etch. The more acidic the liquid the faster and deeper the etching occurs.

Note: Penetrating Sealers cannot stop etching as they are beneath the stones surface and not a physical barrier between the acidic liquid and the stone.

For more information regarding etching and removal, please contact Aqua Mix®.

Aqua Mix: www.aquamix.com.au

STAIN REMOVAL:

If you have a stain that you wish to remove, Aqua Mix® Poultice Stain Remover should be used.

This product is a blend of absorbent clays that can be mixed with water or an appropriate chemical to extract the stain from within the stone.



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