

BESWICK STONE

CIRENCESTER

PREFACE

None of the information contained in this document is of use unless your natural stone floor has been sealed correctly. No amount of precaution or care will stop an inadequately sealed floor from staining. There is a very simple water test you can do to assess if your stone floor has been adequately sealed: flick or spray some water onto the stone and leave for 5 minutes. On your return if the water is beaded and sits on the surface of the stone, it is sealed correctly. If the water has disappeared into the stone, then the floor is not fully sealed and further applications are required until this test results in a positive result.

CARING FOR NATURAL STONE

Natural stones have a chemical composition that may interact in damaging ways with any cleaning solutions that are **not** specifically formulated for the task. Once you know **WHAT** to use, all you have to do is follow some basic guidelines and your natural stone installation will give you years & years of beautiful service.

General Advice:

- **Generic Cleaners:** Avoid cleaning products unless the label specifies it is safe for natural stone.
- **Entrance Mats:** to protect against dirt and grit being brought in from outside we would recommend the use of high-quality entrance mats.
- **Pads and Castors:** to prevent unnecessary scratches and damage to your stone floor fit suitable felt pads or castors with castor cups to items of furniture which move across the floor without being lifted.
- **Vacuum or sweep frequently and mop occasionally.** Ensure your vacuum attachments are in good condition with no frayed or sharp edges that have the potential to scratch the stone.

TREATING SPILLS

Some spills will turn out to be detrimental to stone if unattended. Orange juice, wine, vinegar, alcohol, tomato sauce, yogurt, salad dressing, the wrong cleaning products and so on, can start to etch the surface. Therefore, **DO** pick up any spills as quickly as possible. **DO NOT** rub the spill, only blot it. **DO NOT** use cleaning products on your natural stone unless the label specifies that it is safe to use on natural stone.

Generic household cleaners off the shelves of the supermarket are out, and specialty cleaners specifically formulated to deal with the chemistry of stone are in.

DO clean your stone floor with a stone safe cleaner.

DO NOT let any spills sit too long on the surface of your stone. Clean spills up (by blotting only) as soon as you can.

CLEANING AND MAINTAINING FLOORS

Newly Installed Floors:

DO NOT damp-mop your floor immediately after installation & grouting as the fine powder most likely left on the floor from installation will be trapped in the water and may leave ugly, hard-to-remove streaks over its surface. For the first week or so, just sweep & vacuum and dust mop your floor as often as you can. You will know it is ready to be washed when your hand remains clean (no whitish powder) after rubbing it on the floor.

DO NOT damp-mop your floor using a solution of water and soap. Soap will leave a hard-to-remove deposit on the surface of the stone. Always use a pH neutral stone floor detergent as opposed to soap. Lithofin Wash & Clean is a suitable product which will likely be available locally or we offer Rocatex Tile & Stone Cleaner in-store.



DO NOT damp-mop your floor using a solution of water with a commercially available cleaner, unless its label specifically indicates that it is safe to use on natural stone. Worse yet, do not damp-mop your floor using a solution of water and vinegar. Vinegar is highly acidic and will damage natural stone.

Ongoing:

The products for ongoing cleaning of your stone floor are the same as above. However, if a floor has become particularly grubby then a deeper clean can be done though this shouldn't be more frequent than once or twice a year. Do a deep-cleaning of your stone floor and grout lines when needed, using a solution of water and a heavy-duty stone, tile and grout cleaner. Lithofin Power Clean is a suitable product that we stock, and which will likely be available locally or we also offer Rocatex Tile & Stone Renovator.



Cleaning Equipment:

A good quality mop and the proper mopping bucket that allows you to spin excess water out of the mop-head are optimal to obtaining the best results when mopping your stone floor. Sloshing copious amounts of water around is not the best way to clean your floor and will result in the water settling on the face of the stone and in the grout lines, evaporating away and leaving dirt behind. This is why, if you want to mop, we recommend investing in a mop that can be spun.

Sponge mops are not the best choice for stone floors. A better choice is a good sized, closed-loop cotton string mop. However, the very best are micro-fibre mops. It is a good idea to have at least a couple of mop-heads, so that when one is dirty, all you have to do is throw it into the washing machine and use another one in the meantime.