

## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

### FLOOR & WALL TILES – NATURAL STONE - HONED

**Note:** In instances where cleaning and maintenance recommendations provided by tile sealer manufacturer are different from those contained in this document, the tile sealer manufacturers recommendations must be followed.

#### 1.1 LIMESTONE - FLOORS

##### 1.1.1 Pre-clean

Pre-clean limestone with a specific pre-cleaning product if considered necessary. Dilute in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Wipe over stones with a cloth or sponge with the diluted product. If stubborn marks persist, use a white emulsifying pad to aid removal. Rinse and dry stones to avoid water marking. Note: the limestone must be completely dry before sealing.

##### 1.1.2 Pre-seal

Use water or solvent based impregnators, for interior and exterior use.

**Note:** follow instructions on curing and drying times before grouting commences.

##### 1.1.3 Grout removal

Dilute an alkali product accordingly to the manufacturer's instructions. Wash over the stones with a white pad or sponge to remove residue. Rinse and towel dry stones. Note: Increase drying times before final sealing, if a deeper clean was required for the removal of the contaminant.

##### 1.1.4 Final seal and surface coatings

**Polished limestone** - suitable impregnator (water and oil repellent) leaves a natural finish.

**Fine honed** - suitable impregnator (water and oil repellent) leaves a natural finish

**Fine honed** - suitable impregnator followed with a paste wax or specific solvent free emulsion. Leaves stone with sheen to gloss finish, interior only.

**Rough and sawn** - suitable impregnator (water and oil repellent) leaves a natural finish.

**Rough and sawn** - suitable impregnator followed with a water based emulsion or similar to form a sheen to gloss finish, interior only.

**Note:** There are also products available to produce colour enhanced/wet look with matt to high gloss finishes. Contact your TTA specialist cleaning product member for advice and product information.

##### 1.1.5 Daily and weekly maintenance

Use a pH neutral cleaner.

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#### **1.1.6 Deep cleaning and renovation**

If an impregnator has been used on the floor area, the floor can be deep cleaned with an alkali product. This will de-grease the floor and grouting areas, in preparation for a new application of impregnator.

Dilute the product (see manufacturer's instructions)

Work in small controllable sections. Pour the diluted product onto a section, leave for 5-15 minutes depending on manufacturer's instructions, scrubbing with a specific brush or with large areas a rotary machine with a white pad. Every 2-3 minutes move the product around with the brush or pad to keep evenly distributed. Add more diluted product if the area starts to dry as this can cause staining within the stone. Once all grease and grime is removed, rinse with fresh water several times, removing all product and water with a wet vacuum or mop. Towel dry the limestone, so no water marks remain.

If the floor to be renovated has had a build up of emulsions or waxes from repeated applications, a specific stripping agent (solvent or water based) should be used. Work in small controllable sections. Pour the diluted or un-diluted product onto a section, leave for 5-15 minutes depending on manufacturer's instructions, scrubbing with a suitable brush or, on large areas, a rotary machine with a white pad every 2-3 minutes to keep product moving and working. Add more product if the area starts to dry as this can cause staining within the stone. Once all waxes, grease and grime are removed, rinse with fresh water several times, removing all product and water with a wet vacuum or mop. Towel dry the limestone, so no water marks remain.

Care should be taken with these deeper cleaners, as excessive use can have an effect on surface sealants and polishes that have been used.

Always follow sealer manufacturer's instructions or contact them for detailed instructions of use. Household and commercial cleaning products must be used with caution as they may contain bleaching agents, or ingredients that may burn or discolour stone finishes. If unsure, try a small inconspicuous area before cleaning.

Where temporary sealers are employed they should be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.