

Maintenance and Care of External Stone Floors in non-slip finishes

Flamed, sandblasted, brushed, chiselled or bush hammered surfaces

Non slip finishes vary in degree of difficulty to clean. The more effective the non-slip finish the more difficult to clean! The easier to clean the less effective the non-slip finish!

Sealing

On installation of any external natural stone floor or paved area in a non-slip finish, we recommend that it be sealed with Environex Synergy, (environex.net.au). Synergy is a sealer that is not only designed to make the stone more practical to clean and maintain but also to act as a consolidator resisting any deterioration that might result from exposure to the elements, acid rain or hard water and pool chemicals. While Synergy is a penetrating sealer, it also has a surface component that makes cleaning and daily maintenance easier. Note that it is critical that the floor is professionally cleaned prior to sealing allowing adequate time to dry prior to application of the sealer, (see our list of recommended sealing contractors). Cleaning and application should be in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations. Synergy has 2 year warranty so after this period has expired, one should consider re sealing. Regular cleaning will help minimise any build-up of efflorescence, (salts and impurities left after moisture from installation or external sources has dried). Note however that the extent of any efflorescence is environmental and will vary from one site to another. Failure to clean or remove efflorescence promptly may result in hardening or baking of the stain when exposed to regular sunlight. In the event there is a preference to avoid the surface component of the Synergy sealer then please refer to our list of recommended penetrating sealers. If in doubt as to which is most suitable consult with the manufacturers website or our showroom staff as in some cases, different recommendations may apply to each stone category.

Washing and cleaning

Washing of the floor for general maintenance purposes should be carried out using a high pressure water source and done as often as required to maintain an adequately clean appearance. Depending on the extent of traffic and soiling, it may be necessary from time to time to "scrub wash" either manually using a standard scrubbing brush or a commercial scrub cleaning machine. If using a cleaning agent we recommend Johnsons View Quick, a non rinse product that should help remove most dirt and grime and enhance the appearance of the floor. For removal of difficult marks we recommend "Tempo Heavy Duty Cleaner", available from "Statewide Cleaning Supplies". "Tempo" is an aggressive but non-acidic neutral cleaning agent however rubber gloves should be used while applying this product. Lithofin Power Clean is also a suitable alternative and available from Bernini Stone & Tiles or other stone outlets.

Recommendations:

- Neutral Detergent recommendation: Johnsons “View Quick” & “Tempo Heavy Duty Cleaner” available from:
- Bunzl Cash Store: 346 Newcastle Street, Perth ph. 9328 4200
- Campbells Janitor Supplies: 22 Irvine Street, Bayswater, ph. 9370 5100
- Statewide Cleaning Supplies: 39 Frobisher Street, Osborne Park, ph9444 8677
- Environex Synergy, (environex.net.au), is available from Bernini Stone & Tiles as well as other stone outlets.