

Maintenance and Care of Honed Marble, Travertine & Limestone Floors

The honed finish is produced in the initial stages of the polishing process taking the surface to a smooth finish but without producing a shine.

Sealing

On completion of the installation of a honed marble floor, we recommend that it be sealed with a penetrating sealer which does not change the appearance of the material or leave a film on the surface. Note that it is critical that the floor is professionally cleaned prior to sealing allowing adequate time to dry prior to application. After application of the sealer any excess sealer residue should be removed by buffing with a white nylon pad. This buffing process will leave the floor with a low sheen which, if preferred to the completely matt finish, can be maintained by simply buffing with the white nylon pad after washing the floor. For clients that prefer the more matt finish, the low sheen left after completion of the sealing process will wear away within time.

Consider re sealing every 2-3 years. The overall sealing process, inclusive of scrub cleaning, application and buffing on completion has the effect of rejuvenating the floor.

Washing and cleaning

Washing of the floor for general maintenance purposes should be carried out using warm to hot water with a dash of methylated spirits which helps eliminate wash marks. If necessary, a mild detergent (e.g. dish-washing liquid, shampoo or alternatively see our recommendation below), can be added to make removal of soiling or dirty marks more effective. Adding detergent can mean washing marks are obvious on completion and if so, wash with fresh hot water and a dash of methylated spirits to eliminate marks. Depending on the extent of traffic, it may be necessary from time to time to "scrub wash" either manually using a white nylon pad or a commercial cleaning machine. For removal of difficult marks, we recommend "Tempo Heavy Duty Cleaner" (see recommendation below). "Tempo" is an aggressive yet non-acidic neutral cleaning agent; however rubber gloves should be used, while applying this product.

For removal of difficult marks scrubbing with a white nylon pad, (the white abrasive backing on your "Scotchbrite" sponge) should be effective (Note: Not applicable on black or high quality white marble, if in doubt check with one of our staff). Please note the disadvantage of this is that "clean spots" in the areas worked will be visible and only remedied when the whole floor is scrub cleaned.

Enjo Approach

As an environmentally friendly approach consider the "Enjo" approach where washing with cold water only is recommended followed by use of " Method Squirt and Mop Hard Floor Cleaner", a chemical free product that does not require rinsing and leaves an appealing finish on the floor. (see recommendation below for "Enjo" and "Method" products).

Option specific to the stone industry: “Lithofin MN Easy Care” is a cleaning product designed for regular maintenance. MN Easy Care cleans and enhances in one action (that is, no rinsing required). For removal of difficult marks consider “Lithofin” MN Power Clean (see product recommendations below)

Recommendations

- Cleaning fabrics: Mopping equipment and cleaning fabrics available from “Enjo”, contact Kathy Smith 0400363960.
- For “Method” cleaning products contact Kathy Smith 0400363960.
- Neutral Detergent recommendation: Johnsons “View Quick” and “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
- “Dry Treat Stain Proof”: (www.drytreat.com) Recommended contractor for application of sealer: Airlite Specialist Services, ph. 9443 6789.
- Lithofin cleaning products available from Bernini Stone & Tiles (www.lithofin.com)