

Bernini

# Maintenance and Care

For Honed Floors in Internal Areas.

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## **MAINTENANCE AND CARE** *FOR HONED 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 a honed floor, we recommend sealing with the penetrating **Aqua Seal Gold +** which does not change the appearance of the material or leave a film on the surface. For the ultimate finish and increased longevity of your stone, a sealing contractor should be engaged for a professional result.

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 years. The overall sealing process, inclusive of scrub cleaning, application and buffing on completion has the effect of rejuvenating the floor.

## **SPILLS & ETCHES**

If a serious spillage occurs it should be cleaned promptly. As penetrating sealers provide no surface protection, that is, spillages of acidic substances; alcohol, citrus juice etc., will leave an etch mark on the surface.

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. 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.

Some materials are more forgiving of such marks due to colour, movement and pattern. If you are uncertain what material will be suitable for your specification please discuss with one of our showroom consultants.

### **WET AREAS**

In some parts of Western Australia, the water supply is “hard” due to a high mineral content and if left on the stone surface may result in etching of the surface.

In this case, surfaces should be wiped down after use to ensure no water left on the surface. This will also help minimize any build-up of calcite or minerals on the stone surface. If calcite or mineral build up can accumulate over a period it may become necessary for the stone to be re surfaced by an experienced stonemason or sealing contractor.

## WASHING AND CLEANING

Washing of the floor for general maintenance purposes should be carried out using warm to hot potable water. A dash of methylated spirits can help to eliminate wash marks or alternatively the use of specialty cleaning fabrics, such as Enjo, allows washing or wiping with less risk of streaks or wash marks

**Sealers Plus EzyClean +** can be used for everyday cleaning & commercial grade disinfecting. If regularly used this rinse & streak free cleaner can help prevent soap scum & hard water deposit build up whilst not affecting the sealer's performance.

Or alternatively regular use of Sealers Plus **Boost** to both clean & seal your stone to ensure longevity of your existing sealer.

For periodic heavy duty clean then **Sealers Plus Stone Wash +** can be used to remove dirt, grease, grim & soap scum.

Always test first in an inconspicuous area to determine ease of application, dilution rate, colour stability & desired results. End user to determine the suitability of the product for their own use.

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 the ultimate finish we recommend that sealing, buffing and scrub washing be carried out by professional sealing contractor, please contact our office for a complete list.

## PRODUCTS

All sealing and cleaning products are available to purchase directly from Stone Tile Warehouse at 62 Westchester Road, Malaga (08) 6558 0511 or our Bernini showroom at 181 Hay Street, Subiaco (08) 9388 1178

- Sealers Plus **Aqua Seal Gold +**
- Sealers Plus **EzyClean +**
- Sealers Plus **Boost**

For further assistance with cleaning, sealing and maintenance please do not hesitate to contact our showroom representatives.