

Maintenance and Care

For Polished Floors in Internal Areas.

MAINTENANCE AND CARE FOR POLISHED FLOORS

Polished natural stone offers a luxurious aesthetic, that reflects the light and creates a high end feel to any fit-out. However, unlike honed or textured finishes in marble, limestone and travertine a polished finish is prone to scratching and marks are more noticeable due to its reflective properties.

SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

In determining the suitability of a polished floor finish for a particular application, awareness of material and surface finish characteristics are important, the extent of any natural pitting or fissures varies with each material type.

Fissures, pitting and veins may show up as a break in the polish. Some materials may have variation in density resulting in high and low spots in the polish. Characteristics such as veins or fissures may “open” or become more apparent with wear & time. If you are not clear about this aspect of the material you are considering please discuss with one of our consultants.

Any measure that can be taken to minimise tracking of sand or other similar abrasive materials from adjacent or external areas should be considered a priority (e.g. mats and use of other entries for regular internal and external traffic). Careful consideration must be given to the fact that in any potential application site conditions as well as owner expectations are usually unique to that particular situation.

SEALING

Minimise the vulnerability of abrasive action and risk of staining to polished finishes through the use of impregnating sealers or surface sealers which protect and enhance the polish.

PENETRATING SEALER

On completion of a polished floor, we recommend sealing with the penetrating sealer **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.

Consider re-sealing every 1-2 years. The overall sealing process, inclusive of scrub cleaning, application and buffing on completion has the effect of rejuvenating the floor.

If a serious spillage occurs in a particular area 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.

SURFACE SEALER (Not suitable for wet areas)

While typically most natural stone floors are sealed with penetrating sealers, some clients prefer a higher level of protection as well as a more “dressed” appearance. To achieve this, we recommend an Italian product that has been used by the marble industry for many years to meet this requirement, Bellinzoni RR1.

The product should initially be applied by a specialist contractor, contact our showroom for a list of contractors.

A floor treated with Bellinzoni RR1 is maintained by adding a “cap” full of Bellinzoni RR1 to the washing water each time the floor is washed. This rejuvenates the level of wax, helps to fill any minor scratches in the wax surface and generally leaving the floor with a fresh, maintained, continuous finish. The surface can be enhanced by periodic buffing to suit expectations with a red, blue or white nylon buffing pad.

While an maintained level of sealer will help protect the floor and minimise risk of acidic attack, it does not guarantee full protection. Any acidic attack should be cleaned up promptly. If left for any time, the acidity will slowly eliminate the wax layer and etch the floor and, or result in a stain, as well as an etch mark depending on the spillage. Use of any kind of abrasive pad to remove a mark is likely to leave a different surface finish.

Stripping and re-application of a fresh coat of Bellinzoni RR1 is recommended approximately every 2-3 years, depending on the extent of use and traffic.

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.

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.

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 +**
- **Bellinzoni RR1**

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