

ocean+ merchant pty ltd

Unit 3 40 - 46 McEvoy Street
Waterloo NSW 2017 Australia
Email: info@oceanandmerchant.com

tel: + 61. 2. 9310 4088

fax: + 61. 2. 9310 4096

Cleaning, Protecting and Maintenance of Bluestone

Due to bluestone origins (sandstone), different types of bluestone differ greatly in their properties (durability, porosity, etc). Aside from their fascinating appearance, one thing all kinds of bluestone have in common is that they all require surface treatment. The correct treatment not only can enhance the stone's appearance, but also allows for easy cleaning using contemporary methods.

Pre sealing prior to laying tiles

It is advisory for all natural stone products that have a porosity of $>.3\%$. Pre Sealing is a precautionary measure taken to prevent the product from staining throughout the laying process. Cover the entire tiles surface with PRO, ensuring that the product is absorbed into the tiles pores & capillaries. (Check the suitability of product when using stones that are acid sensitive or polished.)

Initial cleaning of newly installed surfaces

Most stones become easier to maintain and less sensitive to staining when they protected with an impregnating sealer. Pre-sealing the tile with PRO before grouting will prevent the absorption of water assisting in the removal of grout residues. It is recommended grout residues are carefully removed with clear water during or immediately after the grouting (before the grout dries).

This process is especially recommended when working with polished bluestone.

Grout residues on rough or sawn finishes can be removed with diluted MN Builders-Clean. Finely honed or polished surfaces can be thoroughly cleaned with MN Power-Clean.

Refurbishing old surfaces

Use MN Power-Clean diluted 1:5 or 1:10 for common dirt deposits. Using a floor-cleaning machine will assist to clean the surface. In case of stubborn staining, you may require a specialised Lithofin cleaner. In either case, carefully rinse with plenty of clear water to ensure no dirt or cleaning residues remain on the surface.

Non-typical types of dirt

Dirt layers, oil and grease residues, and other general stains can be removed with MN Power-Clean. In extremely stubborn cases and on tar, wax, fresh paints, old sealants etc use WAX-OFF. Deeply ingrained oil stains are best removed with OIL-EX.

Protection

MN Stain-Stop >W< protects the tile surface and grout lines from water, oil and grease stains without altering the surface appearance for many years. This product is recommended for all areas both indoors and outdoors. Impregnate high water areas such as a shower recess with MN Stain-Stop. When resealing a bluestone surface use MN Stain-Stop.

Stain-Stop PLUS is a premium impregnating sealer that protects the surface from water, oil and grease stains. This impregnator also enhances the stones natural colour structure providing a wet appearance without forming surface layers. Suitable for indoor and outdoor areas. Long term protection.

With correct maintenance impregnating sealers will last for at least 10-15 years indoors and approximately 7-10 years outdoors. Maintenance products assist the lifetime of the sealers and the appearance of the stone surface. The use of incorrect cleaners will affect the longevity of the sealer and stones composition.

Maintenance

Indoors: All floor surfaces must be cleaned regularly with MN Easy-Care to maintain the surface in one simple step. If you require a slight sheen on your impregnated surface occasionally add MN Care-Sheen to the washing water

Outdoors: Regularly use MN Easy-Care. Occasional cleaning to remove heavy dirt, green stains left by plants and the like can be removed with MN Power-Clean or ALGEX. For structured surface a brush or brushing machine is helpful.

Important: Avoid using, resting or placing products on your bluestone surfaces that may contain methylated spirits, bleaches, chlorine, acid, citric acid or corrosives. These types of products can cause permanent damage to the stones composition and sealers. Limit the use of wax or acrylate-based products as they promote a build up of layers.

This information should be considered to be informal and non-binding. The products must be used according to local conditions and materials. Instructions must be read carefully and followed closely, Technical Information sheets are available. When no previous experience is available, or in case of doubt, tests the product in an inconspicuous area.

DISCLAIMER

The technical details, recommendations and other information contained in this data sheet are given in good faith and represent the best of our knowledge and experience at the time of printing. It is your responsibility to ensure that our products are used and handled correctly and in accordance with any applicable Australian Standard, our instructions and recommendations and only for the uses they are intended. We also reserve the right to update information without prior notice to you to reflect our ongoing research and development program.

Country specific recommendations, depending on local standards, codes of practice, building regulations or industry guidelines, may effect specific installation recommendations.

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