

## Care Guide & Maintenance for STAIN PROOF® Sealed Stone

This cleaning procedure is to be used as a guide only in maintaining and cleaning natural stone.

SNB Stone advises that natural stones such as Marble, Limestone, Dolomite and Travertine are subject to wear, etching and weathering. Granite and many Quartzites do not etch from acids and therefore are highly resistant to food acids. This care guide provides a few tips on how to maintain correctly sealed natural stone and help extend its performance and beauty.

We recommend sealing every natural stone as they will absorb liquids and make it harder to remove stains if unsealed. The sealer is designed to prevent permanent staining. Stain Proof® Premium Impregnating Sealer is used on all surfaces, internally and externally. Stains other than etching (caused from acids) on Marble, Limestone, Dolomite and Travertine can be removed using simple household products such as bleach or a poultice depending on the type of stain it has absorbed. Stain Proof® Premium Impregnating Sealer is a once-off application that does not require continued maintenance with special products to maintain its performance. Follow the maintenance procedures recommended by STAIN PROOF® for the particular sealer used. Professional advice by stone cleaning contractors is also recommended.

NOTE: Natural stones do not come with any warranties nor guarantees due to the nature of these materials. Accredited sealing applicators can provide warranties for the sealer that the stone has been sealed with based on the sealing product's terms and conditions. Stone fabricators and tilers can provide a warranty for their workmanship and installation.

### General Care

With all natural stones, wash with a clean, soft cloth and fresh warm water. Then as an additional safeguard, wash your natural stone surfaces periodically with warm water and a mild neutral detergent.

PH neutral spray/cleaners can be used for daily cleaning. Many can be found stating 'Stone safe' at many supermarkets.

Use chopping boards and avoid directly cutting on any type of surface.

Use a coaster under all glasses, particularly those containing alcohol or citrus juices. Many common foods and drinks contain acids that will etch or dull the surface of Marble, Limestone, Dolomite and Travertine.

Avoid placing hot items directly on the stone surface. Use trivets or mats under hot dishes and placemats under porcelain, ceramics, metallic or other objects that can scratch the surface.

The use of steam mop is recommended. Dust mop interior floors frequently using a clean non-treated dry dust mop. When using a conventional mop, change the water frequently.

Mats or area rugs inside and outside an entrance will help to minimize the sand, dirt and grit that may scratch the stone floor.

In the bath or other wet areas, soap scum can be minimized by using a squeegee after each use. Use a mild bleach solution to remove mold build up.

Clean up spills immediately and thoroughly rinse and dry the surface after washing. Repeat if necessary.

Do not use vacuum cleaners that are worn, as the metal attached to plastic heads may scratch the surface.

Do not use vinegar, lemon juice or other cleaners containing acids on natural stone surfaces.

Do not use cleaners containing grit or abrasives on natural stone surfaces.

Do not use cleaners that contain acid such as bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners or bath & tile cleaners.

## **Commercial Environments**

We recommend consulting with a professional Cleaning Contractor onsite to assess a suitable schedule and determine general procedures based on the areas specific service and requirements.

## **General Care**

Adequate Signage must be used to warn people not to walk on wet surfaces. All cleaning residues (detergents, chemicals, cleaners) must be thoroughly removed from the surface before allowing pedestrians to walk on it.

Clean up spills as soon as possible with water and a neutral pH detergent.

Sweep the surface daily. Surfaces should be kept free of dirt by regular sweeping or vacuuming. This helps protect the finish of the tile by eliminating much of the abrasive grit that will wear the surface.

Mop daily using clear, fresh water and a pH neutral detergent. The mop water should be changed frequently.

High traffic areas/areas with food products should be scrubbed every 2 days to 1 week.

An auto scrubber/scrubbing machine with a suitable cleaning pad may be used with a suitable non-acidic cleaning agent/detergent.

Alternatively, the areas can be steam cleaned every 2 days to 1 week. Low traffic areas can be scrubbed or steamed less frequently.

For spot cleaning, acid free, diluted bleach may be used with a Doodlebug™ Pad Holder.

Always test stone to be cleaned for suitability prior to treating on large scale.

## **Contact a local Stone Restorer for the removal of the following:**

- Rust stains and other mineral stains
- Paint and Graffiti
- Efflorescence