

Natural Stone Tiles Cleaning and Maintenance



At Tilemax we are pleased to present a range of natural stone products and finish offerings.

Natural stone products are stunning in their own right and are ever evolving. As time passes, the stone will take on a natural patina and continue to wear in over time. Like a solid Rimu floor, as these products age their true qualities are unveiled. A porcelain tile will remain uniform and will last tens of years. In comparison, we have all seen images or travelled through Europe where stone has been installed for thousands of years. It is important to select product and a suitably qualified tradesman who can introduce you to his preferred sealer system and supporting maintenance plan. Ensuring your product selection is set to age naturally over a lifetime.

It is always important to clean and pre-seal the stone before installation, consider a grout release and appropriate grout colours presenting a clean and tidy substrate prior to final seal and hand over. These early processes will set the pathway for a timeless installation.

Here is our recommended approach for cleaning natural stone tiles:

First, ensure all surfaces have been sealed with a high-quality, fit for purpose, penetrating natural stone sealer. There are several options depending on the look you would like to achieve (colour enhancement or a more natural look). Aqua Mix and Lithofin sealer systems present a complete range to support all forms of stone installation.

Daily/Routine Cleaning:

All spills should be wiped up immediately to reduce the chances of absorption and staining. Refrain from exposing your natural stone to acidic, strongly coloured, or corrosive substances like lemon juice, coffee, vinegar, food colouring, or hair dye, as these can leave marks/stains if not promptly addressed.

If needed, gently scrub the tile surface and grout lines with a plastic-based or natural bristle brush or mop to dislodge any debris. Never use metal-based scrubbing products as this can scratch the stone surface.

Use a pH-balanced cleaner, such as Aqua Mix Concentrated Tile and Stone Cleaner. This product is a no VOC formula, biodegradable and can be diluted with water which makes it a very cost-effective solution. This product is available through Tilemax.

Please note, acidic cleaners can cause etching or surface marks on stones like marble, travertine, and limestone, and they may also impact grout joints over time.

Ensure thorough rinsing of both the tile and grout with clean water after cleaning to eliminate any lingering cleaner residue.

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Heavy Duty Cleaning:

First try and solve the issue with the steps listed above. If this doesn't work, Aqua Mix Heavy Duty Tile and Grout cleaner can be used. Mixed as per the directions on the container, wet the floor with the cleaner and allow it to soak on the surface for 3-5 minutes. Ensure that the solution does not dry in this time.

If needed, gently scrub the tile surface and grout lines with a plastic-based or natural bristle brush or mop to dislodge any debris.

Extract excess cleaner off the surface with a microfibre mop/cloth and thoroughly rinse the tile and grout with clean water. Mop up any excess water.

If the results using the above products are not satisfactory, please contact the Tilemax team for consultation. There are other more heavy duty cleaners which can be used like Poultice scrubs, and Nanoscrubs but these should be used with caution.

Notes:

With all natural stone, we recommend a high-quality, penetrating sealer prior to use. This will enable easy cleaning and cut down on staining.

For stone with a more textured surface (like our natural slate, or stone cladding), scrubbing will be required more often due to dirt being held on the surface. We recommend using a plastic-based or natural bristled brush.

We recommend using a towel or microfibre cloth to dry surfaces after cleaning to prevent streaking as the tiles dry.

If you are wanting to use every day cleaning products, first test product in an inconspicuous area. Some heavy-duty mildew/mould products can affect tiles, grouts or sealers.

All dilution information and instructions for the above products can be found on the back of the bottle.

Most grouts already have a built-in mould inhibitor and products like Exit Mould (and other heavy-duty cleaners) can break these down.