STONE AND FLOORCARE

HOW TO GUIDE:
SEALING: PORCELAIN TILES

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INSTALLATION

Tile adhesive is always recommended for tile installations. Adhesive should be applied at a minimum 5mm to the floor using a notched trowel. A thin layer of tile adhesive should be applied to the back of the tile prior to placing. The tile should be twisted into the wet tile adhesive to remove trapped air prior to tapping with a rubber mallet. Only the use of a white rubber mallet is recommended. Black rubber may cause permanent marking on some polished porcelain tiles.

GROUTING

Bonding liquids should only be added to the grout mixture if immediate and proper clean-up is possible. Be careful when using pre-packaged grout as these products have plasticisers, latex resins and pigments, which could cause staining if not immediately cleaned up after grouting.
Only small areas at a time should be grouted as cleaning up of the excess grout on the tile surface should be done before the grout has dried. STONESHIELD GROUT-LIFT™ should be added to the water to aid with cleaning. Dried grout on the tile surface may lead to severe staining.

CLEANING AFTER GROUTING
In the case of porcelain tiles acid based cleaners like STONESHIELD GROUT-LIFT™ can be used for the removal of grout and cement residues.
STONESHIELD DEEP-CLEAN™ should be used to neutralise the surface after cleaning with an acid based cleaner. Neutralising helps prevent sealer failure.
Polished porcelain tiles often have a factory applied protective wax coating. This should be thoroughly removed with STONESHIELD WAX-OFF™ or STONESHIELD X-TREME-CLEAN™ before sealing.

WHY POROUS TILES NEED SEALING?

Natural stone, terracotta, cement and clay tiles are natural materials which have been quarried or formed or pressed. Their natural form cannot be modified and therefore require sealing to protect against the following:
1. Sealing reduces the porosity of the tile or stone, reducing the chance of permanent staining.
2. Sealing protects against chemical attack from acids. (e.g. wine, coffee, vinegar, sugar, soft drinks.)
3. Sealing strengthens the surface, providing increased abrasion resistance and surface protection
4. Sealing often improves the aesthetic finish of natural stone, terracotta, etc.

SEALER RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended sealer for porcelain: PORCELAIN-SEALER   (natural look repellent)

Recommended sealer for porcelain: MARBLE, GRANITE & TRAVERTINE SEALER (natural look repellent)

SEALER SELECTION

The intended purpose of a sealer is to protect the tile or surface. Different types of protection are required based on the type of floor or tile.
1. Certain surfaces only require protection against staining. In this case a penetrating sealer or repellent would be the correct choice.
Porcelain Tiles   - STONESHIELD PORCELAIN- SEALER
Porcelain Tiles   - STONESHIELD MARBLE, GRANITE & TRAVERTINE SEALER.

2. Certain surfaces require protection against surface wear and tear as well as staining. In this case a resin type sealer is required. The final surface finish and colour enhancing or natural look is purely of personal choice.
Porcelain Tiles   - NONE

STONESHIELD PORCELAIN-SEALER

Description: A superior quality natural look, no sheen, no surface film, solvent based penetrating silicone water repellent for general stain protection. Can be used as a pre-grouting sealer on to clean surfaces 6 hours before grouting. Allows water vapour transmission. Suitable for interior and exterior use.

Uses: Suitable on low porosity tiles including polished and unpolished porcelain.

STONESHIELD MARBLE, GRANITE & TRAVERTINE SEALER

Description: A premium quality, solvent based penetrating, no-sheen, no surface film, colour enhancing water and oil repellent for maximum stain protection. Allows water vapour transmission. For interior and exterior use.

Uses: Suitable on low porosity tiles including polished and unpolished porcelain..

MAINTENANCE:

Only use STONESHIELD DAILY- CLEAN™ to prolong the life of the sealer.
Re-apply the original STONESHIELD sealer if the surface becomes difficult to clean or staining occurs.
STONESHIELD PROTECT AND SHINE™ (gloss) and STONESHIELD SURFACE PROTECTOR™ MATT can be used internally as a protective maintenance polish.

LIMITATIONS:

Do not apply to damp tiles or surfaces.
Allow sufficient time for the grout and tile adhesive to dry out completely before sealing. Consult the STONESHIELD sealer label for the correct drying times for the sealer selected.
Do not wet tiles or surfaces for at least 24 hours after sealing.
Allow at least 4 - 8 hours drying time before foot traffic depending on the sealer selected.
Do not apply sealer externally if rain is expected within 12 hours.
Store and use between 16° C and 32° C only.

SURFACE TYPES	FLOOR & WALL TILES	
NAME	MARBLE,GRANITE & TRAVERTINE SEALER	PORCELAIN- SEALER
Quality	Premium quality	Superior quality
Colour change	Natural look	Natural look
Surface finish	Natural finish	Natural finish
	No surface film	No surface film
Type of sealer	Repellent	Repellent
Water / solvent	Solvent based	Solvent based
Usage	Interior & exterior	Interior & exterior
Over coating times	30 minutes	30 minutes
Expected wear	15 years	5 years
Min. no of coats	1 coat	1 coat
Maintenance: cleaner	Daily-clean	Daily-clean
Maintenance: polish		

For additional information and advice call:
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