

## NATURAL STONE TILE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

### Daily Tile Care

- Always follow tile manufacturer instructions. If instructions have not been provided to you, please ask your sales representative for the proper information.
- Old Port Specialty Tile recommends Miracle Products for regular cleaning and sealing of your tile. These products can be purchased at our store. If you have questions regarding which products are appropriate for use on your tile installation, please ask a sales representative.
- It is recommended to not mix cleaning and sealing products from different manufacturers.
- Always do a test patch in an inconspicuous area prior to applying any cleaning or sealing product on your tile.

### ***\*Manufacturer's instructions will supersede the below information, should the instructions differ\****

- To ensure your natural stone products will provide you with a lifetime of aesthetics and utility, a proper maintenance program is crucial. Natural stone products are porous by nature and require a different maintenance program than traditional ceramic tile.
- Many of the cleaners acceptable for use on ceramic tile can stain, damage or dull stone.
- Stone surfaces are very easy to maintain. Clean stone with warm water and a mild liquid soap. Never use acid cleansers or abrasive chemicals on stone. Natural stone should be sealed after installation and every one to two years thereafter, depending on its application.
- There is no set rule on how often to seal your natural stone. Sealing can be as frequent as six months for higher traffic areas on marble, slate, travertine, and limestone or every couple of years for granite countertops. Also, some sealers provide for only a single application every ten years. Please review the guidelines for each individual sealer.
- If any heavy-duty cleaning or stain removal is required contact an Old Port Specialty Tile representative to further discuss what products or actions to take.

### Grout Care

### ***\*Old Port Specialty Tile recommends looking at manufacturer's specifications for the best grout types for your product\****

- Most tile installations use cementitious grouts. This type of grout should be sealed after installation to prevent the color from staining. The grout should

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be sealed with a penetrating/impregnating sealer (often called grout sealers) which does not contain silicone, as silicone can shorten the useful life of the sealer. Epoxy grouts, conversely, are chemically cured and acid resistant and, as a result, do not require a sealer. The application of a good quality penetrating/impregnating sealer into the grout joints of a cementitious grout will not change the natural color of the grout, but will prevent the penetration of moisture, simplify maintenance, and help prevent staining or discoloration. Only the grout needs to be sealed, not glazed floor or wall tiles. Grout can be sealed seventy-two hours after installation.

- There are different grades of penetrating/impregnating sealers, therefore the useful life and price will differ between a low quality and high-quality sealer. You may need to reapply the sealer on an annual basis depending on the sealer quality, traffic patterns, and maintenance routine. Some sealers have multiple year warranties for useful life. Refer to the manufacturer warranty, technical & product information for specific details on product installation, useful life, and product applications (including any warnings) before use.
- Neither sealing the grout nor using a stain resistant grout will guarantee against surface build-up or discoloration of the grout. Grout needs to be cleaned on a periodic basis to remove any surface build-up. Routine grout cleaning can be done with a daily concentrated household or commercial cleaner depending on the application. When heavy duty grout cleaning is required, you will need to use a professional strength Tile & Grout Cleaner that can remove grease, soap scum, body oil, mildew stains, algae, and synthetic or acrylic waxes from the grout joints. However, such a product should contain non-polluting chemicals and low VOC levels. This type of product is available for purchase at Old Port Specialty Tile.