

# STONE CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

For Natural Stone, Stone Mosaics, and Mosaics Containing Metal

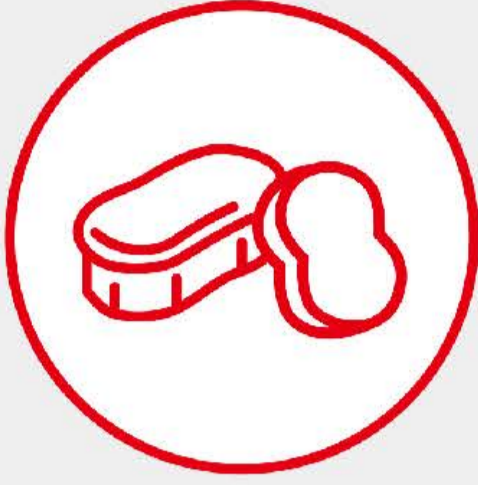
## RECOMMENDED SEALER



Sealing helps maintain the look and stain protection of your natural stone. Natural Stone and Stone Mosaics should be sealed prior to and after installation.

We recommend using a quality penetrating sealer that acts as a repellent to dirt and debris but does not change the look and feel of the natural stone product. Penetrating sealers are highly recommended for Marble. To enhance or deepen the color of your stone, we recommend an enhancing sealer.

## CLEANING TOOLS



Natural Stone can be cleaned using a dust mop, soft bristle brush, sponge, or a vacuum cleaner without a beater bar.

Clean Stone Mosaics with a microfiber cloth, soft bristle brush, sponge, synthetic mop, or a vacuum cleaner without a beater bar.

Mosaics containing metal should be wiped clean with a soft, non-abrasive cloth.

## RECOMMENDED CLEANER



Natural Stone and Stone Mosaics should be cleaned with neutral pH cleaners that are specifically formulated for your stone type and don't contain acid, bleach, or abrasive chemicals (i.e., citrus or vinegar). Harsh cleaners will etch and/or stain natural stone.

Mosaics containing metal can be cleaned using a pH neutral cleaner after installation, for everyday maintenance and for heavy duty cleaning. These products should not be cleaned with acidic or abrasive cleaners, including sealer strippers, as it may remove the metallic look and cause the metal to rust. Over time, it is normal for the metal to patina due to oxidation.

## SHOWER PRODUCTS



Using a squeegee regularly on Natural Stone and Stone Mosaics in the shower will help minimize soap scum, water spots, and hard water buildup. To remove soap scum buildup, we suggest a non-acidic soap scum remover specifically formulated for use on your stone type.

Caution: It is not recommended to install Mosaics containing metal in wet areas such as showers, steam showers, fountains, or pools.

## STAIN & GREASE REMOVAL

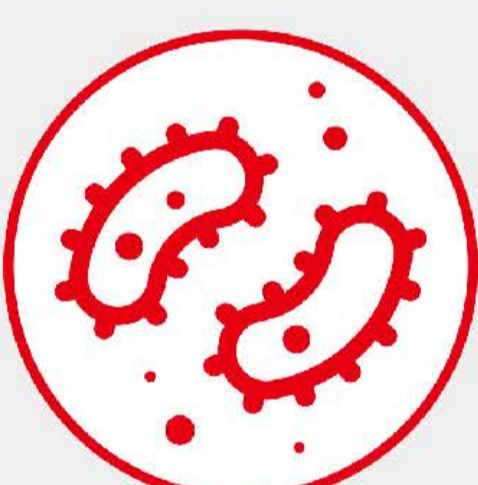


To prevent staining, we recommend removing any spills as quickly as possible. Always use a blotting motion and avoid wiping to prevent the spill from becoming larger. Follow by flushing the area with mild soap and water several times and drying with a microfiber cloth.

To remove stains and grease from Natural Stone and Stone Mosaics, we recommend using a deep cleaner formulated for your stone type or a poultice. Poultice is a type of cleaner that is non-acidic and absorbs deep set stains, grease, and light cementitious grout haze from both polished and unpolished stone.

Caution: Some heavy duty cleaners, including poultice, may dull the shine of polished stone. If this occurs, use a stone polish to restore the natural shine. Poultice is not suitable for use on mosaics containing metal.

## MOLD & MILDEW



For assistance treating mold and mildew, select a mold or mildew cleaner that is suitable for your stone type and finish.

## GROUT MAINTENANCE



If your stone product is grouted, sealing your cementitious grout helps maintain the look and prevents mildew and mold. Sealing is optional for pre-mixed and performance grout. When selecting a grout sealer, choose one that is formulated specifically for your grout and material type.

Grout requires extra care when it's been stained with food, grease, scum, and other forms of buildup. When used with a grout sponge or brush, the right grout cleaner should help remove any unwanted buildup.

If your grout still isn't the desired color, you can refresh it! A sponge, grout stain applicator, a clean cloth, along with a grout refresh product suitable for use with stone are all you need. For best results follow all manufacturer instructions and guidelines.

## PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE



Preventative maintenance is an important step in ensuring your stone is everlasting. Resealing stone after installation and recommended will provide protection from scratches or damage, mold, and mildew. Protect your floor from scratches or damage by using furniture caps and pads, non-slip mats, and area rugs.

**PRO TIP:** It is also recommended that cleaners, treatments, and sealers are tested in a small, isolated area to ensure desired results.

\*Since every application is different, the suggestions mentioned above are general recommendations only. We strongly recommend consulting a licensed professional who has experience with your material type and specific situation. It is also recommended that cleaners, treatments, and sealers are tested in a small, isolated area to ensure desired results.

# START TO FINISH

## INSTALLATION MATERIALS

### STONE TILE

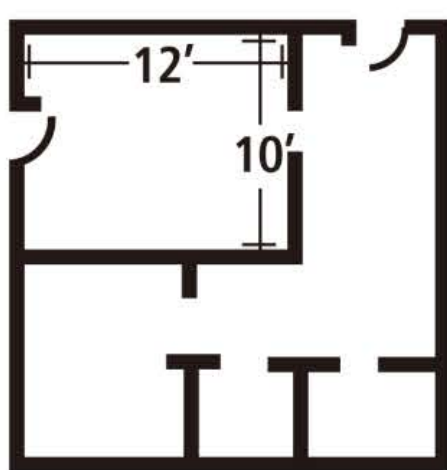
#### MARBLE

### STEP 1: MEASURE



Measure your installation area to calculate how many square feet of tile you will need for your project.

**LENGTH X HEIGHT = TOTAL SQ.FT.**  
**ADD 10% EXTRA FOR CUTTING**

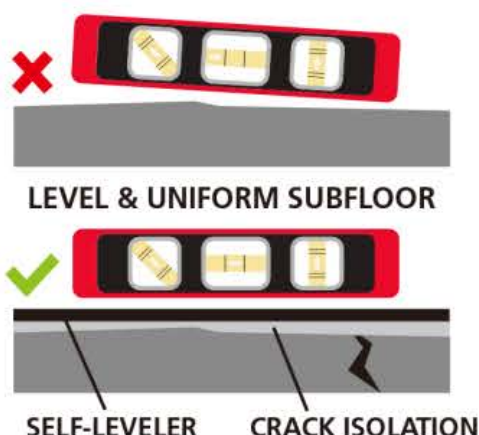


### STEP 2: PREP FLOOR

Prep subfloor by removing any debris and ensure subfloor is **FLAT, UNIFORM AND CLEAN**

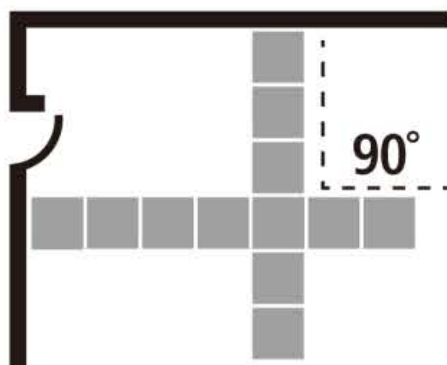
**CEMENT SUBFLOOR PREP:** Patching may be needed to correct any subfloor imperfections. Self-leveling may be needed to level uneven surfaces for proper installation. Use crack isolation to prevent tiles from cracking after installation.

**WOOD SUBFLOOR PREP:** Cement backerboard or membrane needed.



### STEP 3: LAYOUT

Plan your tile layout starting at the center of the room to mark quadrants using a chalk line. Dry lay the tiles from different boxes until you reach the edge of the room. Adjust center mark as needed.



### STEP 4: MIX, SEAL & SET



SEALER



MORTAR



BUCKET

+ SPACERS



TROWEL

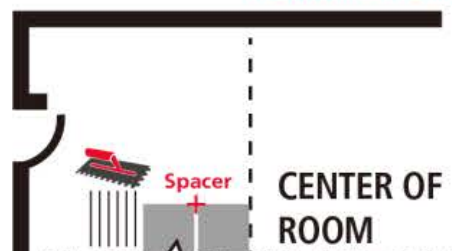


**NOTE:** Different size trowels are needed for different size tiles

Seal stone before and after installation. Mix mortar, use a large bucket and mixing tool, add water to the mortar (per manufacturer's recommendation). Use trowel to apply mortar to subfloor substrate.

Set tile from the center of the room. Lay tile side by side, use tile spacers between tiles for desired grout line size.

**USE A WET SAW TO CUT TILES FOR CORNERS & TIGHT SPACES**

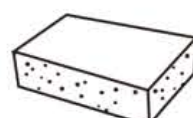


**Sealing stone before and after installation will prevent grout from penetrating the stone tile. Sealers protect stone tile from stains and residue that would otherwise be difficult to clean.**

### STEP 5: GROUT & CLEAN



GROUT

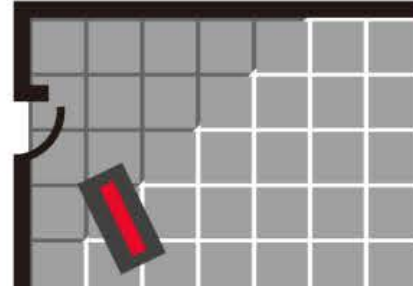


SPONGE



FLOAT

Allow mortar to dry before grouting tile (24hrs. is usually recommended). Grout tile using a rubber float. Follow the quadrants you used before to apply the grout diagonally.



**NOTE:** Clean as you grout to ensure no residue dries on tile surface

**DON'T FORGET:**  
**CUTTING TOOLS, SETTING MATERIALS, SUBFLOOR PREP & FINISHING PIECES**

\*Always follow manufacturer's installation guidelines