



M. S. International, Inc.

Natural Stone Care and Maintenance

➤ **What is Natural Stone?**

“Natural Stone” refers to a number of products quarried from the earth, used over many thousands of years as building materials and decorative enhancements. These products include Granite, Marble, Limestone, Travertine, Slate, Quartzite, Sandstone, Onyx, and others. They are more than just rocks – natural stone is hand selected from the best, most consistent sources for durability and beauty.

Natural stone products differ in composition, color, and texture even among pieces from the same source. This enigmatic nature of the product lends itself to one of a kind designs and distinctive, dramatic applications.

➤ **What are care and maintenance of the stone products are recommended?**

Stone surfaces are very easy to maintain. Clean stone floors 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 periodically thereafter, depending on its usage.

- **Can installer fill the travertine with grouts?**

- When travertine is filled at the factory or at the time of installation, the fill can work its way out of the spaces. Normal maintenance may involve re-filling these voids

- **What is an impregnator sealer? How does it help stone?**

- Impregnator sealer consists of microscopic balls of silicone that attach themselves to crevices inside the stone. These balls become a permanent part of the stone, and act as a waterproof shield.

- **How often should a sealer be applied?**

- When applied for the first time, at least 2 to 3 coatings are recommended. Thereafter, depending upon the traffic and usage of the stone, the sealer coats should be applied periodically.

- **Using cleaning products on Natural stone**

- Always attempt a trial on an isolated area before using on the project to check for desired results and follow instructions recommended by the product manufacturer.

Note – The suggestions mentioned above are for general practice. In case of a particular project, it is recommended that a professional installer/fabricator/restorer is consulted. It is also recommend that cleaning solutions are tried in an isolated area to check for desired results. MSI disclaims any liability towards the use of any care & maintenance products.



M. S. International, Inc.

Porcelain/Ceramic Care and Maintenance

➤ **What is Porcelain/Ceramic?**

Versatile, affordable and elegant, porcelain and ceramic surfaces are innovative products that are gaining popularity amongst homeowners, builders and interior designers. Created from super-fine clay and fired at a high temperature (higher temperature in case of porcelain tiles), the surfaces are dense and tough enough to stand up to today's demanding applications both indoors and out. Available surfaces come in a range of glazed/unglazed, highly glossy/refined and in rough textures, not only to emulate natural stones, but bring a contemporary or modern feel to any scene.

➤ **Daily Maintenance**

Both porcelain and ceramic tiles are easy to clean and require low maintenance.

Following are some of the common guidelines for day to day maintenance of ceramic/porcelain surfaces:

- Remove all debris using an untreated dust mop, soft bristle broom or vacuum
- Follow by damp mopping with clean warm water
- On polished surfaces, dust mop floors frequently in order to avoid surface abrasion from the grit of the dust particles

For moderately soiled floors,

- Use neutral cleaners to agitate surface
- Avoid cleaning solutions containing oils, fats or acids
- Follow directions provided by the manufacturer of cleaners for proper application and dilution
- Allow the cleaner to properly suspend the dirt

For heavily soiled floors,

- On an isolated part of the surface to be cleaned, use a natural-bristle brush, nylon scrubbing pad or floor machine
- Use a degreaser in areas where necessary
- Thoroughly rinse the surface with clean warm water using a mop or a wet-vac
- Towel dry or buff tiles to prevent spots/streaks and to enhance the surface sheen

Note – The suggestions mentioned above are for general practice. In case of a particular project, it is recommended that a professional installer/fabricator/restorer is consulted. It is also recommended that cleaning solutions are tried in an isolated area to check for desired results. MSI disclaims any liability towards the use of any care & maintenance products.