

Protection & Maintenance

of your natural stone



Protection

Upon installation, your stone will have been treated to ensure it is protected when used. For specifics of this please contact us directly.

We advise that you continually provide protection to your stone, especially if it is flooring. This is due to the way this stone is used, as it is consistently being walked upon which can result in quicker deterioration of the stone if not correctly protected.

The protection we advise for domestic flooring is **Stainstop by Lithofin**, as this barely alters the look of the stone. Before applying this protector you should ensure the flooring has been correctly cleaned and is completely dry. For this we recommend **Wexa by Lithofin**.



Our recommended protection for domestic flooring



Our recommended cleaner to use before adding protection to your stone

Two or three thoroughly applied coats - with the first applied extremely liberally (1 litre to every 5m²) - is sufficient in most cases - please refer to the product's user instructions if you have any concerns.

When your stone is wet from the sealer do not cover it. Some coverings can stain the stone which they are "protecting". If building works are continuing then we advise you to lay down a layer of paper or breathable felt sheeting and then once works are completed you should apply Stainstop. For the long term, soft cloth dust sheets are recommended as a physical protectant.

If your property features underfloor heating, it is advised you do not switch this on when your flooring is covered.

Regular Maintenance

- Dry vacuum the floor to remove any dust or grit
- Mix **Lithofin MN Wash & Clean** with water at a ratio of 1:50, this is approximately one “blob” in half a bucket of water
- Apply the solution with a clean mop, being careful not to soak the floor
- Clean approximately 10m² at a time, rinsing the mop out in a separate bucket of water
- Apply the solution again with the clean mop
- Allow **Lithofin MN Wash & Clean** to dry naturally, as this will condition the floor



Spot Cleaning - *Light Marks & Stains*

- **Mix Lithofin MN Powerclean** with water at a ratio of 1:20
- Apply the solution onto the stain with a sponge and leave to work for 10-15 minutes
- Using your sponge or a non-abrasive white nylon pad, begin to work on the stain in a circular motion
- With heavy staining this process may need to be repeated several times
- It is ideal to spread the mixture across an entire tile if possible, to avoid a visibly stark clean area
- Rinse the area with fresh water and remove with a clean sponge

Our recommended product for both spot cleaning and deep cleaning



Deep Cleaning

- **Mix Lithofin MN Powerclean** with water at a ratio of 1:20
- Apply the solution onto the entire surface with a mop and leave to work for 10-15 minutes
- Use a stiff, 'deck brush' to brush into any voids to lift dirt
- Add more solution then vacuum away any dirt using a wet vacuum.

Flooring often requires professional cleaning and polishing - depending on traffic and maintenance - approximately every 2 years. Please contact us if you feel this is required and we can recommend the best course of action.



Deck brush to lift dirt from voids



Wet vaccum for cleaning away any dirt and residue



Notes

Clean up any spills as quickly as possible, using a damp cloth. Add a small amount of **Lithofin MN Wash & Clean** to the water if needed.

Regular wet cleaning with **Lithofin MN Wash & Clean** and water should always be preceded by a sweep or vacuum to remove grit and dirt. This will ensure that dirty water isn't pushed around the floor and into any joints.

Always mop from the clean areas toward dirty ones.

Any areas in which food is being prepared should be cleaned regularly with a stronger cleaner. For this we recommend **Lithofin Powerclean**.

Bathroom Maintenance

Maintenance of Wet Areas



Preventing Damage

Unfortunately stone sealants cannot entirely prevent acid etching on the stone, so it's important to be as careful as possible. Most soaps and shampoos are mildly acidic and will damage stone showers over a long period of time.

Standard limescale removing cleaning products will cause acid etch damage so be extremely cautious.

Removal of these acid etches has to be carried out by grinding back and re-polishing the surface, so this is not possible on stone surfaces which have a textured finish.

Soap, body wash, emollient creams and limescale can all build up to form an orange skin on the stone. This can be removed with household '**Thin Bleach**' or **Lithofin MN Outdoor Cleaner**.



An extreme example of acid etching. The etching here was caused by using a highly acidic cleaning product on the stone.
Image taken from google.

Regular Maintenance

- We recommend **Lithofin MN Wash & Clean** for regular maintenance cleaning of wet areas.
- The ratio used should be 20ml per 10 litres of water, this is approximately one squirt to half a standard bucket of water. In case of absorbent, dirty surfaces you may need to use a bit more.
- Depending on the area, you can use either a floor mop or cloth for wiping. Then leave the residues to dry on the surface - *do not rinse with water*.
- Wipe any chrome fixings with a damp microfibre cloth and buff dry with a dry microfibre cloth.
- In areas subject to heavy wear and tear it may be necessary to occasionally use **Lithofin MN Power Clean** - see opposite.



The products we recommend for regular maintenance of wet areas.



Spot Cleaning - *Light Marks & Stains*

For light marks and stains

- **Mix Lithofin MN Power Clean** at a ratio of 1:40 with water
- Apply with a sponge onto the stain and allow the solution to work for 10-15 mins
- Using a non-abrasive white nylon pad, begin to work on the stain in a circular motion
- With heavy staining, repeat the process several times
- It is ideal to spread the mixture across an entire piece of stone, so that you do not end up with a stark clean area in the centre of the stone
- Rinse with water, remove water with a sponge and buff with a micro-fibre cloth

For mould and body ash (orange) staining

- Mix '**thin bleach**' or **Lithofin MN Outdoor Cleaner** at a ratio of 1:20 with water – spray on or work into the stain with a brush, sponge or microfibre cloth.
- Repeat until the stain or mildew has bleached out
- Increase the concentration if the stain does not improve
- Repeat this every 3 – 6 months (shower cubicle only) and contact us if you have any concerns

Preventing Limescale

- Following use of the wet area, use a squeegee to remove residual water, before it dries on the stone.
- Wipe the stone and metal shower fixings until dry, using a microfibre cloth
- If scale and soap residues build up on the stone, dilute **Lithofin MN Power Clean** at a ratio of 1:20 in water and apply it to the stone.
- Use a soft nylon pad to break down the dirt if needed.
- Rinse with clean water and buff dry with a microfibre cloth

A 'neutral curing silicone sealant' should be applied to all the interior corners of showers and wet rooms. This should be checked every few months to make sure that there are no gaps. If so, remove the old silicone and re-apply.

Grouting must also be checked every so often to ensure that there are no cracks, as the water entering will damage the stone if it becomes perpetually damp.

As with all stone the surfaces will need re-polishing and re-sealing, depending on the amount of use. We would expect to carry out a deep clean, remove limescale and top up seal every year or two for the stone in your bathrooms. If you require any technical advice regarding your stone investment or stone restoration, please contact us directly.



Our recommended cleaner for regular maintenance



Our recommended products for soap and stain removal



Microfibre cloth for buffing stone and chrome



White, non-abrasive, soft, nylon cleaning pads



Wet room squeegee to remove pools of water

Please note that these images are for reference only. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us directly.

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