

limestone

Limestone is a sedimentary rock composed predominantly of calcium carbonate (calcite) and or dolomite. Limestone is formed by the accumulation of coral shells of various types. Some limestone has visible fossils at the surface. Limestone ranges from being very soft to more dense and similar in character to marble. Dense limestone is normally polished and used as flooring while softer varieties are often used in feature walling.

CHEMICAL COMPATIBILITIES

Acids - Depending on the density and composition of the limestone, it's resistance to acids will vary. However, all limestone is effected by acid to some degree. Acid cleaners will cause immediate dulling of polished limestone surfaces and should therefore be avoided.

Alaklis - Limestone can safely be cleaned with alkaline cleaners.

CLEANING

Grout Smear

Grout smear is normally removed by the installer of the stone. Any residual grout or cement films should be removed with T&G Cleaner Pro using a white (non scratch) buffing or scourer pad.

General Grime and Oils

Soil build-ups, fats and stubborn oily spots are effectively removed with T&G Cleaner Pro. If the limestone is coated with an acrylic sealer/polish then Proneutro should be used.

Mould & Mildew

Mould & mildew on limestone is effectively removed with Chlorosan. Many stains caused by food spills and plant matter can also be removed in the same way. Sealing limestone with a penetrating sealer will dramatically reduce future mould and mildew growth.

Lime Scale & Mineral Deposits

Lime scale and mineral deposits are most effectively removed using Stone Gel Pro and a white (non scratch) buffing or scourer pad. Soap scum is also removed using this method.

MAINTENANCE

Commercial & Institutions

Use Proneutro for easy and effective results in the maintenance cleaning of tiled areas in homes, hospitals and care facilities, offices, institutions etc. Proneutro must also be used as a maintenance cleaner if the limestone is coated with and acrylic polymer sealer/polish.

Use T&G Cleaner Pro for cleaning areas subject to heavy use and soiling such as shopping malls, walkways and outdoor areas.

PROTECTION

limestone is a porous stone and needs to be sealed with either a penetrating sealer or a topical/surface sealer, depending on the area of use.

Pre Grout Sealing

Pre-sealing is required with limestone. If it is unusually porous, apply one coat of an Actichem penetrating sealer prior to grouting. This will simplify grout smear clean-up.

Penetrating Sealer

The use of a penetrating sealer is necessary to to protect limestone from damage caused by acidic food spills and oily soils. A penetrating sealer does not protect the limestone's surface from abrasion caused by foot traffic. So in some flooring applications a topical surface sealer is recommended.

Topical/Surface Sealers (flooring)

Polished limestone becomes quickly dulled by abrasive foot traffic as the highly honed surface gets scratched. To protect this highly polished floor surface it is recommended that the floor is protected with an acrylic polymer polish. This surface sealer will protect the floor from abrasive foot traffic and acts as a sacrificial coating which protects the inherent beauty of the stone. The floor can then be maintained and buffed using standard hard floor techniques.

Restoration

When a polished limestone surface has been severely worn and damaged by constant use, it may require re-grinding