

# slate

Slate is a fine-grained metamorphic rock with a parallel oriented structure that allows it to be split (not cut) into thin sheets. The highest quality slates are split into thin hard sheets and are used for roofing. The slates used for flooring are composed of shale and are split into sheets about 1cm thick. Slates vary in quality with some being dense and robust, while others are soft and flaky. Their colours vary from dark blue/grey to brown orange red and yellow. The darker colours are often the more robust variety.

## CHEMICAL COMPATIBILITIES

**Acids** - Dense slate tiles display strong resistance to Actichem acid based cleaners. However, some softer slates can be adversely affected by acidic cleaners. It is always best to pre-test.

**Alaklis** - Slate can safely be cleaned with alkaline cleaners.

## CLEANING

### Grout Smear

Newly laid slate should be left for 3 - 5 days to ensure that the glue and grout is totally cured. Grout smear can be effectively removed from acid resistant slate using T&G Restore with a scrubbing action. For softer slate tiles, grout smear should be removed with T&G Cleaner Pro and a white pad or soft brush.

### General Grime and Oils

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

### Mould & Mildew

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

### Lime Scale & Mineral Deposits

Hard water, mineral and chlorine deposits are effectively removed from acid resistant slates using T&G Restore. Soap scum, body fats and oils are also removed from showers and washrooms using this process. For softer slates, Use Stone Gel pro and a white nylon pad for effective removal of hard water and mineral deposits.

## 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.

### HEAVY DUTY CLEANING

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

## PROTECTION

It is recommended that slate flooring be sealed to minimize the risk of permanent staining and to promote cleaning efficiency. They should be sealed using either a penetrating sealer or topical/surface sealer.

### Pre Grout Sealing

Apply an Actichem penetrating sealer to softer slate prior to grouting to protect the slate and simplify grout smear removal

### Penetrating Sealer

The use of a penetrating sealer is necessary to protect slate walling and outdoor features from damage caused by weathering, mould and oily soils.

### Topical/Surface Sealers (flooring)

It is recommended that slate flooring be coated with a topical sealer and polish combination to protect the slate from abrasive foot traffic and staining. This will enhance the slate colours and produce a brilliant sheen. The floor can then be maintained using standard cleaning techniques.