

## 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 in side 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.