



Natural Stone

Cleaning and Maintenance Guide

Natural stone paving provides a durable, hard-wearing surface and is a valuable investment. Please be aware that stone paving will periodically require basic maintenance to keep it looking its best and to make sure the surface is free from permanent staining etc.

All paving will benefit from a regular wash using a stiff scrubbing brush and mild solution of light domestic detergent and water, such as washing up liquid. Regular maintenance will prevent the build-up of organic and inert residues, which if neglected could result in permanent staining or deep-rooted growth requiring advanced treatment and cleaning methods.

General dirt and debris removal

To remove general dirt and detritus, regular brushing and washing is recommended. This is good practice and the regularity and the extent will depend on the surface concerned: e.g. a pale sawn limestone will typically benefit from a maintenance wash every 2-3 months, whereas a dark reclaimed sandstone may need a light brush over every 6 months. The most common method of washing paving is detergent solution or an acid-free based floor cleaning product, carefully agitated into the paving surface with a stiff brush and then washed off with clean water. Continue washing the surface with the clean water until all the solution has been thoroughly removed.

Deep cleaning and specialist stain removal

The accumulation of organic debris on the surface of paving if allowed to remain can encourage the germination of algae and weed growth. If this is unattended to, this can penetrate deeply into the stone and may require an organic removing solution to kill and deep clean the stone, restoring it to its original state. Always choose a specifically developed product that will not harm your paving and follow the application method carefully. It is always recommended to trial the product on a sample area prior to application to the entire area. For specific advice and technical information regarding the recommended treatment and cleaners suitable for specific stone surfaces, call our Technical Team on 01935 415560.

Deep cleaning natural stone may be necessary to remove stubborn stains and the services of a professional contractor will need to be employed. Power washing is only advised with a light duty pressure washer, and a test on a sample area must be carried out prior to cleaning the entire area. Take care not to hold the nozzle any closer than 400mm from the paving to avoid damaging the surface of the stone. The recommended professional cleaning equipment is DOFF advanced steam cleaning system, which is designed for use on stone and other hard surfaces and will effectively remove paint, graffiti, bird fowling, algae, moss, fungi, wax, chewing gum, bitumen, oil & grease. Other treatable types of staining with specialist products include rust, oil, wine, fruit, leaves, blood, cement, concrete and efflorescence.



For specific guidance and information regarding the type of treatment required for your stone, contact our Technical Team on 01935 415560.

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