

FLOORING STONE

CARE GUIDE



STAMFORD
STONE CO.
AT HOME

HOW TO GET THE VERY BEST OUT OF YOUR STONE FLOORING

Like a good vintage, stone flooring actually improves with age - it wears in, not out - and that's what sets it apart from almost any other flooring material. Simple care and cleaning will preserve the beauty of your stone floor for generations to follow. Read on to find out how to get the best out of your stone flooring...

LAYING A STONE FLOOR

Making an investment in a stone floor can enhance the overall value of your home and will give you endless years of beautiful service. With this in mind, you should use a professional to lay the stone to ensure that it looks good and endures well. It is important to prepare your ground base correctly and to use all the right products to fix, grout and seal your stone tiles.

If you have any questions, we're here to help. [Get in touch](#) and talk to our friendly team of stone experts on **01780 740 970**.

GROUTING

Grouting can make or break a floor. It is important you use grout that is suitable for a natural stone floor. We offer a range of resin-cement grout, in three colourways, which is suitable for use with ceramic, porcelain, mosaic and natural stone tiles. Browse our grouting range [here](#).

Regular cleaning will reduce grout or sealant discolouration, however, over time grouting will stain and may start to disintegrate.

REGROUTING

Regrouting your floor can restore it to its former glory and, at the same time, this will help reduce mould growth and provide extra stain and water resistance.

If you need help with any stone flooring maintenance issues, call our friendly team of specialists on **01780 740 970** today.

SEALANTS

Natural stone tiles and slabs are porous, meaning that they are susceptible to staining and water absorption. It is for this reason that it is essential to seal your stone floor straight away after installation to prevent any damage.

STONE ABSORBENCY TEST

You can do this quick test to work out just how porous your stone is. All you need to do is place several drops of water on the surface of the stone and time how long it takes for the water to completely disappear. If the water disappears in under one minute, consider the stone very porous.

If it takes up to 3-4 minutes, consider it porous. If it takes more than 3-4 minutes, consider it slightly porous. This simple test will also give a good indication of the quantity of sealer needed to protect the entire area.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I RESEAL MY FLOOR?

We recommend that you reseat your stone floor once every three years to give it optimum protection.

WHICH SEALER SHOULD I USE?

The correct sealer will depend on your stone type. Natural stone is usually quite porous and therefore requires a sealer that is specifically designed for use with stone. We recommend [Lithofin Care-Seal](#), which provides a shiny protective film which strengthens the colour and gloss of your flooring.

Take a look at our stone care range [here](#).

REGULAR CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

If you look after your stone floor on a regular basis, it will serve you well for decades to come. Take the following steps to ensure your stone floor continues to look its best at all times.

Regular maintenance advice:

- Sweep your floor regularly with a soft broom
- Mop your tiles regularly with clean water and a gentle neutral cleaner to prevent a build up of dirt
- Thoroughly rinse (with clean water) and dry the surface after washing
- Protect your floor with non-slip mats
- Doormats should be placed at external doorways to reduce the transmission of external grit and dirt indoors
- Get advice from the experts here at Stamford Stone, or read some of our [helpful blogs](#) which span topics including cleaning, maintenance and more!
- Always mop up spills straight away with lukewarm water
- Avoid using bleaches, vinegar, lemon juice or other acidic cleaners

STAINS AND STAIN REMOVAL

To avoid staining you can apply a special sealer which impregnates the stone and protects it against marking. Stain stoppers, if applied correctly, will prevent the penetration of oil, grease and water and will make ongoing maintenance easier. We recommend [Lithofin Stainstop](#).

However, if you accidentally spill a glass of red wine across a stone floor which hasn't got an adequate sealant on it, it will obviously mark. In this instance you will need to:

- Remove any debris
- Blot spills (wiping will spread the spillage) straight away
- Clean the area with lukewarm water and a [specialist stone cleaning solution](#)
- Rinse several times with clean water
- Dry the area thoroughly
- Repeat as necessary
- If the stain persists, you can try a 50:50 water to white spirit solution
- Alternatively carefully scrub the stain with one of our recommended acid-free [stone cleaners](#) or get in touch with our [stone specialists](#).

SCRATCHES OR CHIPS

If your stone floor is scratched or chipped, a stone care professional can advise on treatment.

Scratches can be ground out, using an electric grinder and deeper holes or chipped edges can be filled with a hydraulic lime mortar. Strong cement-based mortar or waterproof grouts that do not allow 'breathability' (they prevent moisture from passing through the stone) are not recommended.

Renewing part of a damaged stone with matching new material is usually preferable to complete replacement.

RISING DAMP

The risk of rising damp is eliminated by a damp proof course. In addition, keeping a relatively constant internal temperature will reduce any likelihood of further damp problems.

If you have any concerns, ask our expert team about the best way to install, preserve and care for your limestone floor.

[Get in touch](#) with our friendly team of stone specialists on **01780 740 970** today.