

Lithofin Stone Care Systems for New Build: Limestone Flooring (Smooth-Honed Finish)

1 BEFORE GROUTING, CHECK
CLEAN ✓
DRY ✓

2 IF A LIGHT CLEAN IS REQUIRED:
MN POWER CLEAN

3 APPLY 50% IMPREGNATOR BEFORE GROUT
MN STAIN-STOP OR STAIN-STOP >W<
LET DRY; MOP 'PUDDLES'

4 DURING GROUTING - TO REMOVE EXCESS
MN POWER CLEAN
1:10
ALLOW GROUT TO DRY

5 AFTER GROUTING - MORE MN STAIN STOP
MN STAIN-STOP OR STAIN-STOP >W<

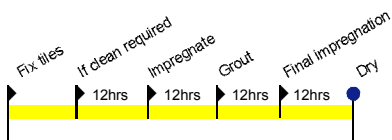
6 MAINTENANCE
GENERAL CLEANING FOR STUBBORN DIRT & SHOE RUBBER
EASY CARE WEXA
1:50 1:10

TREATMENT PRODUCTS
2 MN POWER CLEAN 3 MN STAIN-STOP OR STAIN-STOP >W<
4 5

MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS
6 EASY CARE 6 WEXA

IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE USE OF LITHOFIN PRODUCTS:

1. Suggested drying times



Please note:

these times may be significantly extended, depending on local conditions (seasons, air humidity, room temperature, ventilation, materials used etc.). Humidity measurement of the surface will always provide certainty. It should not exceed 3%.

2. Test area

If no previous experience is available, test the suitability of the product, as well as the processing and the result, in a small area.

3. Information

Always consult the user instructions, and contact us in case of doubt.

This information should be considered informal and non-binding. The products must be used according to local conditions and materials. Where no previous experience is available, or in cases of doubt, test the product in an inconspicuous area.

(i) Installation:

On delivery the limestone tiles may be damp; handle them carefully to avoid marking or chipping. Follow the fixer's instructions to install the floor, but do not grout. Allow the tiles to dry.

(ii) Cleaning during the fixing process:

Before grouting, check that the tiles are clean and dry. The floor is usually dry enough to treat when all the tiles are of a similar shade. If they need a light clean to remove footprints, dust or dirt, use Lithofin MN Power-Clean. This is a special alkaline cleaner, which will help remove grouting compounds, builder's dust, etc.

(iii) Protection:

In order to prepare the surface for grouting, its porosity must be reduced to facilitate removal of grouting residue. Apply half the specified quantity of impregnator (Lithofin MN Stain-Stop or Lithofin Stain-Stop >W<) to the surface with a mop, roller or brush, carefully minimising any frothing residue that may occur. Leave the floor to dry for four to six hours. The average coverage of Lithofin MN Stain-Stop or Lithofin Stain-Stop >W< on regular limestone flooring is 4-5m²/L. This recommendation is merely a guideline to facilitate both ordering and application of material. The key to sealing the limestone flooring properly, i.e. rendering it oil and grease proof, is to saturate the limestone floor until no further product will sink into the pores and capillaries. In the majority of cases there will always be a residue of Lithofin MN Stain-Stop left on the surface after the drying period, which will have to be removed or wiped away with a dry cloth or mop. If Lithofin Stain-Stop >W< has been used initially as a pre-impregnator, either on site or before arrival, regular MN Stain-Stop can be used on top, following exactly the same procedure as stated within this technical method statement. In short, you can mix the two products in their application (preferably using Lithofin Stain-Stop >W< initially.)

(iv) Grouting:

Read the grouting instructions carefully. We recommend that you spread the grout liberally and cover the whole of the limestone flooring, as well as filling in the grout joints. This will minimise the 'tram-lining' effect that may appear a

week or two after installation. Remove excess grout with a solution of Lithofin MN Power-Clean diluted 1:10 with water. Allow the grouting to dry completely before starting the final impregnation process.

(v) Final protection:

Apply the rest of the Lithofin MN Stain-Stop or Lithofin Stain-Stop >W< to the surface. Note that it is not the number of coats of impregnator that matters, but the completeness of the coverage. You should keep applying Lithofin MN Stain-Stop until every part the floor is completely saturated, even if this means using an extra quantity. Lithofin MN Stain-Stop is guaranteed to be stain resistant if this procedure is followed.

(vi) Maintenance:

For regular cleaning, use pH-neutral products in order not to damage either stone or sealant. We recommend Lithofin Easy-Care for most soft limestone. This contains cleaning components as well as enhancing agents that will make the surface richer and more attractive with regular use. Lithofin Easy-Care may be applied with a mop and bucket, however, in larger/heavy-duty areas we strongly recommend use of a Numatic vac or similar to remove the wash water. Do not use maintenance products containing waxes, as these will promote the build-up of false layers, which spoil the floor's appearance in the long term. Remove stubborn marks with Lithofin Wexa, diluted 1:10.

(vii) Extra maintenance on rough surfaces:

Limestone with a rough-honed surface may become difficult to keep clean after a few weeks of use. If so, apply Lithofin Multi-Seal to reduce the roughness of the floor and facilitate future cleaning. See the Lithofin Multi-Seal product details (on page 89) for more information.

Note: Lithofin Stain-Stop >W< is a water based product designed for hard limestone, marble and granite surfaces. Lithofin MN Stain-Stop is spirit based and designed for use on all natural stone. The two products are compatible with each other, generally using Lithofin Stain-Stop >W< as a pre-impregnator followed by Lithofin MN Stain-Stop. This is an ideal scenario when the stone to be sealed is initially a little damp. Lithofin Stain-Stop >W< has been produced as a direct replacement for Lithofin MN Stain-Stop on all hard limestone, marble and granite. Because it is water based it is nearly fume-free and therefore requires limited health and safety instructions for use. Please refer to the relevant product pages for more information.