STONE AND FLOORCARE

# HOW TO GUIDE:
## SEALING: VITRO TERRACOTTA

www.stoneshield.co.za

## INSTALLATION

Tile adhesive is always recommended for tile installations. Adhesive should be applied at a minimum 5mm to the floor using a notched trowel. A thin layer of tile adhesive should be applied to the back of the tile prior to placing. The tile should be twisted into the wet tile adhesive to remove trapped air prior to tapping with a rubber mallet. Only the use of a white rubber mallet is recommended. Black rubber may cause permanent marking on porous tiles.

## GROUTING

It is advisable and recommended that only clean yellow plaster sand and cement in a 50/50 ratio be used for grouting of terracotta tiles. Bonding liquids should only be added to the grout mixture if immediate and proper clean-up is possible. Be careful when using pre-packaged grout as these products have plasticisers, latex resins and pigments, which could cause staining if not immediately cleaned up after grouting.
Only small areas at a time should be grouted as cleaning up of the excess grout on the tile surface should be done before the grout has dried. STONESHIELD GROUT-LIFT™ should be added to the water to aid with cleaning.

## CLEANING AFTER GROUTING

In the case of vitro terracotta tiles, acid based cleaners like STONESHIELD GROUT-LIFT™ and STONESHIELD BRICK & MASONRY CLEANER can be used for the removal of grout and cement residues.
STONESHIELD DEEP-CLEAN™ should be used to neutralise the surface after cleaning with an acid based cleaner. Neutralising helps prevent sealer failure.

## WHY POROUS TILES NEED SEALING?

Natural stone, terracotta, cement and clay tiles are natural materials which have been quarried or formed or pressed. Their natural form cannot be modified and therefore require sealing to protect against the following:
1. Sealing reduces the porosity of the tile or stone, reducing the chance of permanent staining.
2. Sealing protects against chemical attack from acids. (eg. wine, coffee, vinegar, sugar, soft drinks.)
3. Sealing strengthens the surface, providing increased abrasion resistance and surface protection
4. Sealing often improves the aesthetic finish of natural stone, terracotta, etc.

## SEALER RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended sealer for tiles: PENETRATING SEALER COLOUR-ENHANCER (color enhancing repellent)
PENETRATING SEALER NATURAL-LOOK (natural look repellent)
MARBLE, GRANITE & TRAVERTINE SEALER (natural look repellent)

## SEALER SELECTION

The intended purpose of a sealer is to protect the tile or surface. Different types of protection are required based on the type of floor or tile.

1. Certain surfaces only require protection against WATER based staining. In this case a penetrating sealer or repellent would be the correct choice.
   STONESHIELD PENETRATING-SEALER NATURAL-LOOK (natural look repellent)

2. Certain surfaces require protection against OIL & WATER based staining. In this case a penetrating sealer or repellent would be the correct choice.
   STONESHIELD MARBLE, GRANITE & TRAVERTINE SEALER (natural look repellent)
   STONESHIELD PENETRATING-SEALER COLOUR-ENHANCER (color enhancing repellent)

## STONESHIELD PENETRATING- SEALER™ COLOUR-ENHANCER

**Description:** A premium quality, solvent based penetrating, no-sheen, no surface film, colour enhancing water and oil repellent for maximum stain protection. Allows water vapour transmission. For interior and exterior use.
**Uses:** Suitable on low porosity tiles including terracotta, natural stone and quarry tiles.

## STONESHIELD PENETRATING- SEALER™ NATURAL-LOOK

**Description:** A superior quality, solvent based penetrating, no-sheen, no surface film, natural look water repellent for general stain protection. Allows water vapour transmission. For interior and exterior use.
**Uses:** Suitable on low porosity tiles including terracotta, natural stone and quarry tiles.

## STONESHIELD MARBLE, GRANITE & TRAVERTINE SEALER

**Description:** A premium quality, solvent based penetrating, no-sheen, no surface film, natural look water and oil repellent for maximum stain protection. Can be used as a pre-grouting sealer on clean surfaces at least 6 hours before grouting. Allows water vapour transmission. For interior and exterior use.
**Uses:** Suitable on low porosity tiles including natural stone, terracotta and quarry tiles.

## MAINTENANCE:

Only use STONESHIELD DAILY- CLEAN™ to prolong the life of the sealer.
Re-apply the original STONESHIELD sealer if the surface becomes difficult to clean or staining occurs.
STONESHIELD PROTECT AND SHINE™ (gloss) and STONESHIELD SURFACE PROTECTOR™ MATT can be used internally as a protective maintenance polish.

**LIMITATIONS:**

Do not apply to damp tiles or surfaces.
Allow sufficient time for the grout and tile adhesive to dry out completely before sealing. Consult the STONESHIELD sealer label for the correct drying times for the sealer selected.
Do not wet tiles or surfaces for at least 24 hours after sealing.
Allow at least 4 - 8 hours drying time before foot traffic depending on the sealer selected.
Do not apply sealer externally if rain is expected within 12 hours.
Store and use between 16° C and 32° C only.

| SURFACE TYPES | FLOORS & FLOOR TILES | | WALLS & CLADDING |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| NAME | PENETRATING-SEALER COLOUR-ENHANCING | PENETRATING-SEALER NATURAL-LOOK | MARBLE, GRANITE & TRAVERTINE SEALER |
| Quality | Premium quality | Superior quality | Premium quality |
| Colour change | Colour enhancing | Natural look | Natural look |
| Surface finish | Natural finish | Natural finish | Natural finish |
| | No surface film | No surface film | No surface film |
| Type of sealer | Repellent | Repellent | Repellent |
| Water / solvent | Solvent based | Solvent based | Solvent based |
| Usage | Interior & exterior | Interior & exterior | Interior & exterior |
| Over coating times | 2 hours | 2 hours | 2 hours |
| Expected wear | 5 years | 5 years | 15 years |
| Min. no of coats | 1 coat | 1 coat | 1 coat |
| Maintenance: cleaner | Daily-clean | Daily-clean | Daily-clean |
| Maintenance : polish | | | |

For additional information and advice call:
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