



Globally Proven
Construction Solutions

STONETECH® Stone & Tile Care Guide

Keeping Stone & Tile Beautiful™



Make the best choice

Your investment in natural stone or premium tile deserves the right product to ensure it retains its beauty and function over the long term. STONETECH® makes caring for your natural stone or tile easy. You can be confident that you will extend the life and preserve the value of your investment.

This brochure provides a list of simple Do's and Don'ts for you to follow. It also contains an easy-to-understand product list for you to find the right STONETECH product for your needs.



Prevention is better – Don't Wait - Seal and Protect Your Stone

The best way to prevent stains on stone is to treat it with a STONETECH® protective sealer. Natural stone can be very porous. Sealers repel spills on the surface, giving you time to wipe them away before they have a chance to penetrate your stone.

Some sealers can enhance (darken) your stone while others retain the stone's natural hue. Also, different stone types require different grades of sealer depending on what you will be using your stone for and what you want your stone to look like. The chart at the end of this booklet will aid you in your sealer selection.

Tile grout is generally cement-based, very porous, and needs sealing as soon as possible. Penetrating grout sealers like STONETECH® Advanced Grout Sealer work best to protect grout joints against water and oil-based stains.

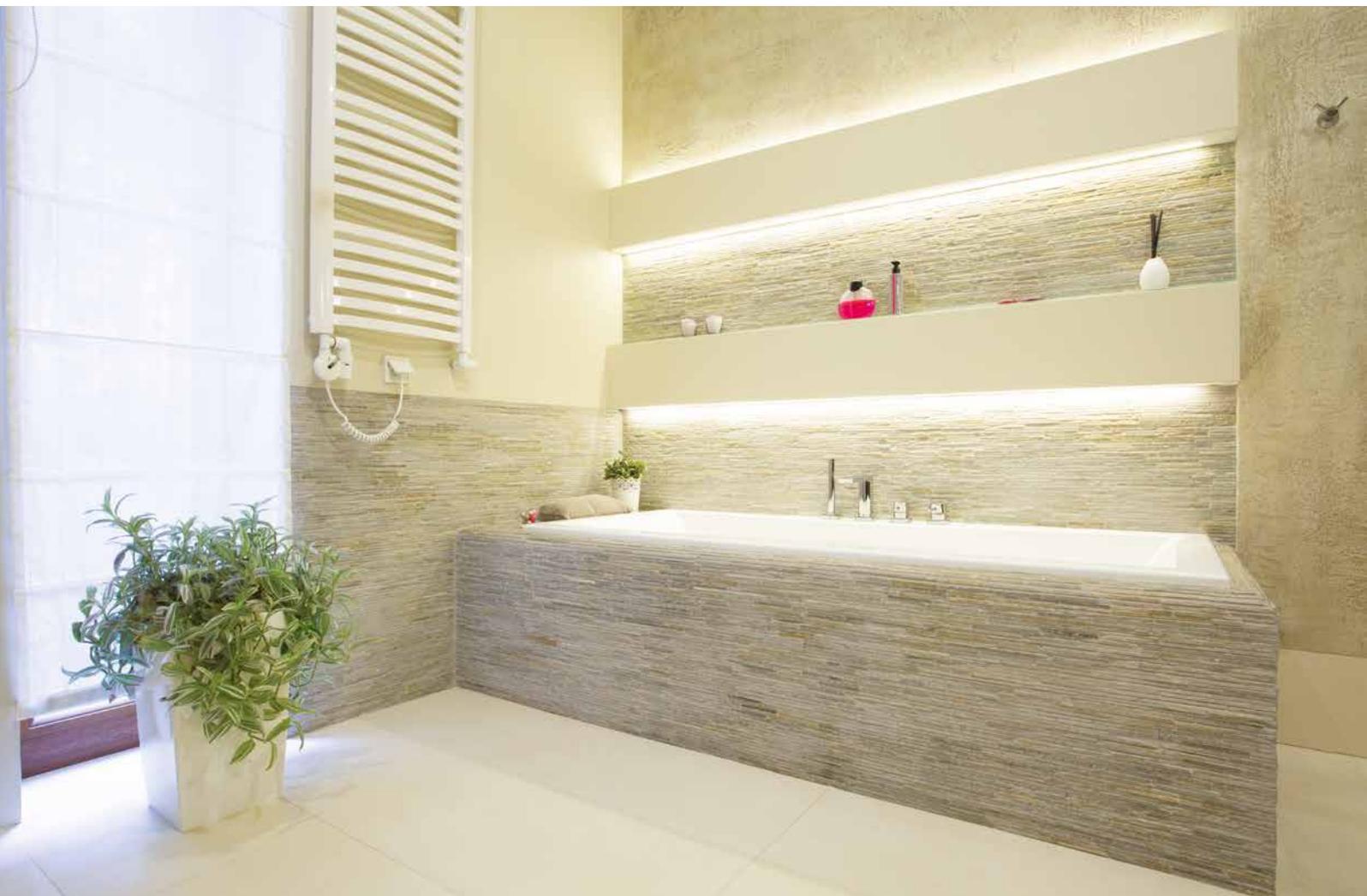
Select the very best cleaner for the job

Once your stone or tile is sealed with a STONETECH sealer, cleaning up is easy.

Just as you wouldn't wash your expensive car with a harsh ordinary household cleaner, the same applies with your beautiful natural stone or tile. Natural stone demands the same kind of attention - it needs cleaning products that are specifically made for its unique mineral composition. For everyday cleaning, STONETECH® REVITALIZER® Cleaner & Protector cleans with a gentle formula that removes soiling while reinforcing the original protective seal to help prevent future staining.

General spray and wipe style household cleaning products not specifically formulated for natural stone or tile are not recommended. These can break down the sealer, thereby removing its protective properties and making the stone or tile grout susceptible to stains.

Worse yet, many cleaning products, including those that contain abrasives, lemon, vinegar, bleach or ammonia can etch away the polish, degrade the sealer, discolour the surface, or even scratch your stone. Avoid using these products. STONETECH products are scientifically formulated for use on natural stone and premium tile – your investment deserves the best and that is STONETECH.



PROTECT

STONETECH® BULLETPROOF® Sealer: Provides maximum protection against most stains while preserving the natural look of natural stone surfaces. Water-based formula for interior and exterior use.

STONETECH® Heavy Duty Sealer: Provides heavy duty protection against most stains while preserving the natural look of natural stone surfaces. Water-based formula for interior and exterior use.

STONETECH® Heavy Duty Exterior Sealer: Provides heavy duty protection against water-based stains on natural stone surfaces. Solvent-based formula for exterior use.

STONETECH® Advanced Grout Sealer: Grout and seal the same day! Provides maximum protection against water- and oil-based stains in a convenient aerosol spray.

STONETECH® Heavy Duty Grout Sealer: Provides heavy duty protection for cement based grout on ceramic and porcelain tile. Water-based formula for interior and exterior use.

STONETECH® Natural Stone Countertop Sealer: Combines STONETECH® Sealer technology for superior protection against oil- and water-based stains with the convenience of a spray dispenser.

STONETECH® Stain Protecting Grout Additive: Grout and seal in one easy step! Water-based, professional grade additive provides built-in stain protection without affecting grout colour.



CLEAN

STONETECH® REVITALIZER® Cleaner & Protector: Gentle daily cleaner and protector with built-in sealer for all natural stone surfaces.

STONETECH® KLENZALL™ Cleaner: Professional strength, alkaline-based formula powers through the most stubborn greasy messes on natural stone surfaces.

STONETECH® RESTORE™ Acidic Cleaner: Professional strength, acidic formula removes hard water deposits, grout haze, efflorescence and soap scum. Great for ceramic and porcelain tile.

STONETECH® Oil Stain Remover: Advanced formula easily pulls out deep-set oil stains on natural stone surfaces. Leaves no residue.

STONETECH® Mold & Mildew Stain Remover: Specially formulated for natural stone, to clean away mold and mildew stains without degrading stone or grout.

STONETECH® Soap Scum Remover: Removes stubborn soap scum, hard water stains, and dirt without scratching your natural stone, ceramic, porcelain or glass tile.

STONETECH® Stone & Tile Cleaner: Ready-to-use daily cleaner with a gentle formula for use on all natural stone, ceramic and porcelain tile surfaces.



TRANSFORM

STONETECH® Polish: Adds a quick, brilliant shine to polished stone without leaving a greasy film. Great for all polished natural stone surfaces.

STONETECH® Enhancer: Deepens the natural colour of stone while providing protection against all stains. Water-based formula for all interior natural stone surfaces.

STONETECH® Gloss Finishing Sealers: Available in High Gloss or Semi Gloss finish, these interior use topical coatings provide shine and deepen the colour of natural stone. Recommended for textured/tumbled natural stone.

STONETECH® Powders: Available in Honing and Polishing formula - non acidic and designed for professional use. Recommended for most marble, limestone and travertine.





Etch Marks or Water Stains – Know the difference

While everyday mess, is not the end of the world, many common household items have the power to degrade the beauty of your stone or tile.

Etching is a result of a chemical reaction that occurs when acid comes in contact with a susceptible surface. Etch marks on stone surfaces resemble water spots or a worn polish.

Seemingly innocent everyday spills from orange juice, coffee, vinegar, wine, tomato products, mustard and many soft drinks are highly acidic and will etch, dull or discolour most marble, limestone, travertine, and grout. Ceramic and porcelain tile, and acid-resistant stones such as most granite, slate and sandstone will typically not etch.

Sealing will give you time to wipe up a spill, but sealers cannot stop the chemical reaction that may leave an etch mark or dull spot. Remember to always use coasters and place mats on the acid-sensitive stones.

DOs and DON'Ts

- **DO** use STONETECH® sealers to protect your stone and tile.
- **DO** clean up spills immediately to minimize damage to your stone and tile.
- **DO** use trivets or mats under hot dishes and cookware.
- **DO** use place mats under china, ceramics, silver and other objects that can scratch your stone's surface.
- **DO** place a small rug or a mat at entry ways to trap dirt and sand from normal foot traffic.
- **DO** dust or carefully vacuum countertops, islands, vanities and floors frequently.
- **DO** use coaster under glasses, especially if they contain alcohol or citrus juices.
- **DO** clean surfaces regularly with STONETECH® REVITALIZER® or STONETECH® Stone & Tile Cleaner.
- **DO** call LATICRETE Technical Support Help Line for maintenance assistance.
- **DON'T** wait to clean up spills on stone. Clean them up as quickly as possible.
- **DON'T** use vinegar, bleach, ammonia, or general purpose cleaners, bathroom cleaners or tub and tile cleaners.
- **DON'T** use abrasive cleaners such as dry cleansers or soft cleansers.
- **DON'T** use alkaline cleaners not specifically formulated for stone.

Maintenance of your Natural Stone

You can keep your stone and tile looking its best by taking some simple precautions. Keep the following list handy, as your guide:

Kitchen and Bathroom Counters

Many household foods, beverages, and cosmetics can degrade tile grout and damage stone. Common toiletries like perfume, mouthwash and toothpaste, as well as common foods such as orange juice and soft drinks contain acids and other ingredients that can degrade sealer or damage your stone's surface.

Whether you have stone slab counters or stone, ceramic, or porcelain tile counters, using STONETECH® Stone & Tile Cleaner will remove residues from cooking oils, everyday food spills, and hairspray.

Stone and Tile Floors

Clean your interior stone and tile floors frequently using a clean, non-treated dry dust mop, as abrasive particles of sand and dirt can damage natural stone and tile surfaces. Mats outside your entrance ways will help minimise damage. Also, be careful when using a vacuum cleaner as the metal or plastic attachments and wheels can scratch the surface.

Damp-mop your stone or tile floor with a properly diluted solution of one of the daily STONETECH Stone & Tile Cleaners. Avoid walking on the floor until it's completely dry to avoid slips.

Bath and Other Wet Areas

Frequent use of STONETECH® REVITALIZER® Cleaner & Protector or STONETECH Stone & Tile Cleaner will minimise soap scum and mineral deposits. In the bath, shower or other wet areas, using a squeegee after each use can minimise these common residues.

Be sure to read and follow the step-by-step instructions on the back label of all STONETECH products. As needed re-seal with STONETECH® sealers.

What to Do When a Spill Occurs

No matter how careful you are, spills are going to happen, it's a part of life.

Food and Drink Spills

Quickly scoop up a food spill or wipe up a liquid spill with a clean, dry cloth. Spray the area with STONETECH REVITALIZER Cleaner & Protector and wipe with a clean, dry cloth. Repeat if necessary.

Challenging Spills

Pets and kids can potentially present you with the messiest stone and tile care challenges. Spills should be cleaned up as quickly as possible to minimise damage caused by acids. Clean the area, spray your stone with STONETECH REVITALIZER Cleaner & Protector and wipe with a clean, dry cloth.

Mud

Let the mud slain dry completely before removing with a soft plastic or nylon brush. Spray affected area with STONETECH Stone and Tile Cleaner. Wipe dry with a clean cloth. Repeat if necessary. If the stain remains, contact a stone care professional.

Oily Stains

If you know the stain is oil-based (from foods like salad dressing, cooking oils, butter or some cosmetics), use STONETECH® Oil Stain Remover to pick up the stain from deep within the stone.





Our Commitment to Caring For Your Stone

STONETECH® leads the way in the development of products that care specifically for your tile and natural stone.

At STONETECH we have an ongoing commitment to ensure that living with your natural stone and tile is pure joy and caring for it is every bit as simple.

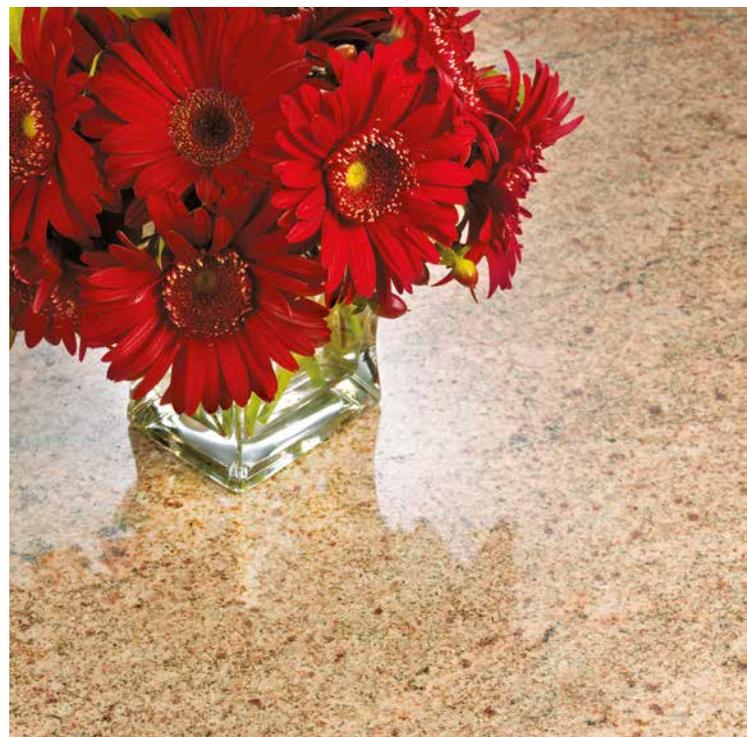
If after reading this booklet you still have questions, visit our online knowledge centre at www.laticrete.com.au, which provides more information on how to care for just about every type of stone and tile.

While you're there, be sure to browse the site. You'll find comprehensive care instructions, do-it yourself project tips, frequently asked questions, and information on buying STONETECH products. There's a wealth of information on the site to help you understand the world of stone and tile.

We are also here to assist over the phone, and our customer service and technical service personnel are pleased to go the extra step to find a solution that is right for you.

Our goal is to keep your stone and tile looking beautiful for a lifetime.

To learn more, be sure to visit our website: **www.laticrete.com.au**





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