



Globally Proven
Construction Solutions

Avoiding or Resolving Surface Care Water-based Sealer Residue

TDS 1260

There may be times that any water based sealer can cause a white haze residue to develop on the surface of stone. There are various reasons why this can happen. The residue can appear due to over application of the sealer, not enough of product being applied and/or not wiping off excess sealer in the stated time.

Appearance of Residue: The hazy white residue that can appear after applying a water-based sealer and often looks like hard water deposits on the surface of the stone. This residue may make a polished stone surface look dull because the residue is on top of the original finish of the substrate. Simply stated, this is referred to as sealer residue.

Causes of Residue & How to Avoid: As always, to avoid complications when using sealers it is important to read, understand and follow the directions as stated on the product packaging. Failure to do so can, and often does, lead to improperly used material. If you have any questions regarding the use, installation or maintenance of the sealer or sealed stone then please contact LATICRETE Technical Services at 1800 331 012.

When excessive amounts of a water-based sealer are applied to the surface of stone, some will penetrate into the stone as it is designed to accomplish. The rest will stay on the surface where it will remain if not properly removed. This excess sealer will start to form the white haze which may become more and more difficult to remove as time passes.

It is important to note that in all cases it is absolutely necessary to wipe the surface of the sealed stone with a clean, dry, absorbent terry cloth towel to remove excess sealer and polish the surface. Even if it appears as if there is no sealer on the surface to remove, the procedure of removing the sealer must still be performed. Failing to do this step will almost certainly lead to the stone having a haze on the surface.

Natural stone and cement based grouts all have a variety of absorbency so it is important to use the sealer that is appropriate for the purpose and the materials being sealed. If a dense stone (e.g. granite) is sealed with an excessive amount of a water-based sealer (e.g. STONETECH® BULLETPROOF®) the sealer which does not absorb into the granite will dry and form the white haze residue. If the applicator allows the sealer to sit on the surface, without letting it dry, and then removes the excess within the time stated by the sealer manufacturer (i.e. 10 – 15 minutes for STONETECH BULLETPROOF) the chances of the haze forming are minimized or eliminated. When wiping the excess sealer off the substrates we recommend clean, dry white terry cloth towels. It is very important that when using these towels that they are rotated. Rotate the towel after every 0.3 – 0.4 m² or the towel will become saturated and redistribute the sealer rather than remove the excess. This can lead to the formation of residue haze.

Removing Residue: If residue is noticed within the first several hours after application, simply reapply the sealer. Allow the sealer to dwell for 2-3 minutes then agitate the surface with a nylon brush or white nylon scrub pad. Wipe thoroughly dry. For stubborn residues, or if more than 24 hours have passed, STONETECH® KLENZALL™ can be used. Start with a light (8 parts water to 1 part cleaner) dilution; apply the STONETECH KLENZALL solution to wet the affected surface. Allow the solution to dwell for 2-3 minutes. Agitate the surface with a nylon brush or white nylon scrub pad, remove the cleaning solution and rinse thoroughly. A repeat wash may be necessary. Once the residue has been removed resealing will be necessary. Follow the instructions listed on the packaging to avoid repeating the issues which were just resolved. If you have any questions regarding the use, installation or maintenance of the sealer or sealed stone then please contact LATICRETE Technical Services at 1800 331 012