



Grouting Stone with SPECTRALOCK® PRO Premium Grout* or SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout TDS 191

Grouting with epoxy is no longer confined to restaurants or industrial facilities. With new technology and availability, the average homeowner is now demanding a stain-resistant epoxy grouted tile installation.

With the increasing use of marble, limestone, granite, and other natural stone, what precautions should be taken with the use of SPECTRALOCK® PRO Premium Grout* and SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout?

1. **All natural stone is not created equally!** Stone varies in porosity. Very porous stones can absorb epoxy resins into the surface of the stone, leaving a darkened look to the entire surface. If the surface is sealed or highly polished, penetration occurs through the edges of the stone, in the grout joint only, and a “picture-framed” effect changes the appearance of the stone.

Grout releases or pre-sealing before grouting may be required!

Always verify compatibility with a test area to confirm the absorption rate of the tile.

2. **All polished surfaces are not the same!** Polished granite resists scratching much more than a polished marble. SPECTRALOCK PRO Premium Grout and SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout contain a special non-pigmented aggregate filler powder. If a very soft marble or limestone can be scratched by sand, there exists the possibility of the filler scratching the surface of the stone. A test area can confirm the acceptable hardness of the polished surface.
3. **Textured, flamed or tumbled stone.** SPECTRALOCK PRO Premium Grout and SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout lock tightly in grout joints. Rough surfaces, ledges, craters, or pits in marble and stone can trap the epoxy. If not removed in the initial cleanup, it is unlikely that removal will be possible after curing. Grout releases or pre-sealing prior to grouting may help to ease removal. Tuck pointing the grout joint or the use of pressurized caulk guns to install the SPECTRALOCK PRO Premium Grout or SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout may be the only possible method of installation.
4. **Removal of epoxy grout haze.** If epoxy resins are left to cure on the surface of the stone, care should be taken in choosing the correct remover. When using SPECTRALOCK PRO Premium Grout or SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout, a solution consisting of 4 oz. (120 mL) white vinegar mixed with 2 gallons (7.6 L) of water is effective for haze removal within the first 24 hours after installation. Straight white vinegar should be used for grout haze remaining no longer than 24 hours. ****Be careful when using white vinegar, or any acid, on polished stone – conduct a test area to determine results.** After 24 hours, LATICRETE STONETECH Professional Heavy Duty Coating Stripper may be more effective for removing the grout haze. Contact LATICRETE STONETECH Professional Technical Services at 1.888.786.6343 for their recommendation on your installation type or refer to TDS 198 for more information.
5. **Sealing stone after grouting.** SPECTRALOCK PRO Premium Grout and SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout never require sealing. Various types of natural stone may require additional coats or finishes to enhance the surface. These should only be applied after the SPECTRALOCK PRO Premium Grout or SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout has fully cured. A 10-day cure time at 70°F (21°C) is required.

* United States Patent No.: 6,881,768 (and other Patents)

Technical Data Sheets are subject to change without notice. For latest revision, check our website at www.laticrete.com
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