



the natural stone & tile specialists

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BLUESTONE & BASALT GUIDE

HONED & POLISHED

Sealing:

- **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** can be used to final seal the stone and grout to protect the stone from staining.

Cleaning:

Grout Smear, Heavy Soiling, Oils & Soap Scum

- **Spirit H.D.C** can be used; the stone should always be rinsed thoroughly with **Spirit Neutral Cleaner**.

General everyday cleaning

- **Spirit Neutral Cleaner** or **Spirit Rejuvenate** is the ideal maintenance cleaner.

EXFOLIATED OR SANDBLASTED

Sealing:

- **Spirit Pre-Seal** can be used on all six sides of the stone to prevent water marking during the laying procedure. Always do a test area as many types of basalt are very dense.
- **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** or **Spirit Natural Paving Seal** (solvent-based) can be used to final seal the stone and grout to protect the stone from staining.
- **Spirit Uni-Seal** can be used internally or externally to give the stone a wet glossy look, this should NOT be used on water features or wet areas such as; showers, bathrooms or around swimming pools where slip resistance is needed.
- **Spirit Glossy Seal** can be used on floors internally to achieve a gloss finish. This product should NOT be used in bathrooms where slip resistance is needed.

CLEANING

For all types of Basalt & Bluestone finishes (except polished or Chinese Bluestone):

Grout Smear, Rust & Oxide

- **Spirit Phosphoric Acid** can be used; the stone should always be rinsed thoroughly with **Spirit Neutral Cleaner** to neutralize the acid.

Heavy Soiling, Oils & Soap Scum

- **Spirit H.D.C** can be used to remove heavy soiling from the grout and stone.

Efflorescence, Salts & Minerals

- **Spirit Efflorescence Off** should be used to remove stubborn salts and minerals.

Mould, Mildew, leaf marks, Tannin, animal droppings

- **Spirit Bright As** should be used to remove these organic substances.

Scuff marks

- **Spirit Porcelain Crème Cleaner** should be used to remove these types of marks.

Removing paint

- **Spirit Safe Stripper** is best at removing acrylic paint from the tiles.

General everyday cleaning

- **Spirit Neutral Cleaner** or **Spirit Rejuvenate** is the ideal maintenance cleaner.

CLEANER & SEALERS FOR THE TILING INDUSTRY

SEALING & MAINTENANCE OF HONED BLUESTONE

Bluestone is growing in popularity and is being used in a wide range of situations from curbing in cities to highly polished flooring in modern homes. **Bluestone** is not a geological term, but a popular name given to several different stones, Bluestone from Victoria, Australia is a form of **Basalt** which is also known as lava from a volcanic eruption. Chinese Bluestone is a form of **Limestone** and is completely different than Basalt, and requires a lot more care through the installation process.



PRE-SEALING

Chinese Bluestone has a high porosity and when used in wall or flooring it should be sealed to protect the stone from effects of water marking, water staining and staining from foods and drinks. In addition to normal staining, Chinese Bluestone can suffer from the effects of tradesmen such as construction debris, cement, grout and heavy foot traffic. To minimize the damage and promote easy cleaning **Spirit Pre-Seal** should be applied as a minimum to the face and edges of the tile preferably seal all six sides prior to the stone being exposed to water. **Spirit Pre-Seal** will act as a grout release and stabilize the stone to keep contaminants near the surface. It is important to allow the pre-sealed stone at least 24 hours to dry and cure before laying or grouting to ensure the full effect.

Both forms of Bluestone (Chinese & Victorian) are porous and will stain. The most common staining agent is oil contained in most foods. Once the stone has been stained with oil, it can be very difficult to remove. For this reason Spirit Marble & Tile Care recommend sealing with **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal**. **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** will absorb into the stone and provide excellent protection against stains like oil and other food type stains.

INSTALLATION

Victoria Bluestone (Basalt)

New installation should be cleaned and allowed to dry prior to sealing. Should the surfaces have a grout smear or materials that are mineral based then **Spirit Phosphoric Acid Cleaner** should be used. **Spirit Phosphoric Acid Cleaner** diluted approximately 8 parts water to 1 part acid this will remove most grouting.

Chinese Bluestone (Limestone)

Once the stone has been pre-sealed, laid and grouted and approximately three days have passed for grouting to harden, the cleaning process can begin. It is very important that the grout residue is removed within 1 week as the grout may cure too much and become very difficult to remove. Because limestone is composed of calcium carbonate and other minerals that react with acidic cleaners, **NO acid** should be used to clean or remove cement or grout. If an acidic cleaner is used, damage may occur to the face of the stone. If **Spirit Pre-Seal** has been applied correctly and cured, grout smear and soiling

can be cleaned using **Spirit Neutral Cleaner** and a brush. This is a simple way to clean and prepare the surface for the finishing products to be applied.

If the Bluestone is soiled with general soiling that **Spirit HDC** should be used to restore the stone to a clean state and allowed to dry completely. The floor must be rinsed and neutralized with **Spirit Neutral Cleaner** prior to sealing

FINAL SEALING

Once clean & dry, **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** can be applied with two coats required follow instructions on the label and allow curing time prior to the floor being used. **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** will maintain the natural look of the Bluestone, and will provide years worth of protection.

CLEANING

General Cleaning

Spot mopping and sweeping can be carried out daily to remove spills, loose food and other debris that is left behind. By removing this type of soiling you will go along way to preventing soiling issues that require more aggressive methods. Regular mopping with **Spirit Neutral Cleaner** will generally stop the honed surface from building up surface debris.

Heavy Duty Cleaning

It is recommended to give the heavier trafficked areas an agitation scrub with **Spirit HDC** every so often to loosen and remove any ground in debris from the stone surface. **Spirit Porcelain Crème** can be used for spot cleaning and stubborn marks on the stone surface.

Precautions

Regular use of solvents and strong acid based cleaners is NOT recommended on this stone as It can damage the stone surface and jeopardize the performance of the sealer.

Please Note: This is a general guide only. For detailed information please contact Spirit www.spiritsealers.com

CLEANER & SEALERS FOR THE TILING INDUSTRY