



the natural stone & tile specialists

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## SLATE GUIDE

### HONED & POLISHED

#### Sealing:

- **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** or **Spirit Premium Seal** can be used to final seal the stone and grout to protect the stone from staining.
- **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.
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### NATURAL OR SPLIT FACE

#### 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 slate are very dense.
- **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** or **Spirit Premium 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 Slate finishes:

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**.

Efflorescence, Salts & Minerals

- **Spirit Efflorescence Off** should be used to remove stubborn salts and minerals. This should be done carefully; if acid products are used incorrectly they can damage the slate.

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 or acrylic coating

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

General everyday cleaning

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

CLEANER & SEALERS FOR THE TILING INDUSTRY

# CLEANING & SEALING SLATE

Slate has been a popular flooring stone for many years. The variety of colours and the very texture of slate proves to be popular today as well as the ease of care and durability. Once cleaned and sealed the floor requires very little maintenance to keep the natural look. Some interesting facts about slate are that it is created by low intensity metamorphism. The parent sedimentary stone is shale or very fine grained clastics with a high percentage of clay-sized and clay mineral particles. Slate generally has a strong cleavage structure, and has a tendency to break along planes of molecular weakness. This gives slate its natural varied surface qualities with a split face.



## GROUT SMEAR REMOVAL

When slate is laid as a floor, the installation should be allowed to dry up to 14 days prior to sealing. Once laid and dry, the cleaning process can begin. Once grouted there is often a grout haze left which must be removed. Use of strong acids is not generally recommended as the clay and minerals in the stone can be affected by harsh acids. However it can be difficult to remove grout haze that has dried and cured without the use of a mild acid cleaner. If other methods such as alkaline cleaners like **Spirit H.D.C** have been unsuccessful in removing the grout haze, **Spirit Phosphoric Acid Cleaner** diluted 10 parts water to 1 part cleaner can be used on most slates without causing damage. Once cleaned the slate should be rinsed with a diluted solution of **Spirit Neutral Cleaner** to remove any acid solution and provide a clean surface to seal. Allow to dry and the sealing process can begin.

## SEALING

Most slate floors are sealed with a topical sealer like **Spirit Uni-Seal**. This type of top coat sealer brings up the colour to give it a wet look and provides an easy to clean surface. Two coats are required with approximately one hour between coats. Areas that suffer from heavy traffic can be recoated without stripping and still retain that new look. Should stripping be required, **Spirit Safe Stripper** will remove Uni-Seal without the use of harsh solvent strippers. Spirit does not recommend using Uni-Seal in shower areas as slip issues can arise. The use of Uni-Seal in exterior areas is subject to slip issues and a penetrating seal such as **Spirit Premium Seal** or **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** would be recommended. **Spirit Premium Seal** & **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** both provide a natural look without the colour enhancement, but will not create a slip issue.

## MAINTENANCE

Ongoing cleaning should be carried out using **Spirit Neutral Cleaner** which requires no rinsing. Should the floor require heavy cleaning, then **Spirit H.D.C.** can be used without harming the seal.

**Please Note:** This is a general guide only. For detailed information please contact Spirit [www.spiritsealers.com](http://www.spiritsealers.com)

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