



GRANITE COBBLESTONES CLEANING, SEALING & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Prior to laying the granite, a coat of **Spirit NPS** can be applied to the face of the stone to protect it during the laying process, the sealer will also act later as a grout release. Alternatively, once the stone has been laid, a coat of **Spirit NPS** can be done prior to grouting to act as a grout release, making rougher difficult to grout surfaces easier to grout.

INITIAL CLEANING / GROUT HAZE REMOVAL

Once the granite has been laid, grouted and washed, a grout residue/haze may be left. It is recommended to wait for 3-4 days for the grout to harden sufficiently before attempting to remove the grout haze in preparation for sealing.

It is advised to keep the floor protected during this timeframe if work is still being done by other trades, as they may need to walk over the floor to do their jobs.

What you will need – (**Spirit Phosphoric Acid, Spirit Neutral Cleaner, Spirit Doodlebug**, bucket, broom, mop) **Spirit safe Acid** can also be used to remove the grout haze.

IMPORTANT! Test first for acid sensitivity before cleaning any tile or stone with **Spirit Phosphoric Acid** or **Spirit Safe Acid**. If the stone shows acid sensitivity, use **Spirit HDC** to remove the grout haze.

1. Sweep and or vacuum the area to remove any loose debris.
2. In the bucket, dilute 10 parts clean water to 1 part **Spirit Phosphoric Acid** or **Spirit Safe Acid** and apply to the area that needs cleaning. Use a broom to evenly distribute the solution over the area.
3. Allow the solution to sit for 2-3 mins. If you notice that the solution is drying, add more cleaner to keep it wet. *Only clean in sections that you can handle.
4. Now scrub the area with a **Spirit Doodlebug** (scouring pad.) The multi-directional head attaches easily to a broom handle for easy cleaning in hard-to-reach areas.
5. Remove the solution with a dense mop and rinse the floor with **Spirit Neutral Cleaner** at a dilution of 20 parts clean water to 1 part **Spirit Neutral Cleaner**. If you have access to a wet/dry vacuum it is the ideal way to remove the dirty water.
6. If necessary, rinse the floor with clean water and allow it to dry completely before sealing.





SEALING

Once the granite is clean and dry, final sealing can begin. It is recommended that a breathable penetrating sealer is used. Test first before use, preferably on a spare piece of stone.

- **Spirit Premium Seal** is the best option. **Spirit NPS** is also ideal. **Spirit Water Based Premium Seal** can be used, but will not penetrate as deep into the dense granite.
- **Spirit Colour Enhancer Pro** can be used to bring out the natural colour in the stone.

What you will need – (Sealer, **Spirit Microfibre Applicator**, clean white rags, gloves, respirator and solvent suitable tray (for solvent-based sealer only)

2 coats are required, allowing approximately 1 hour in between coats. Follow the directions on the can or bottle very closely.

Please note: Penetrating sealers will not prevent surface etching or scuffing.

*Extra care must be taken to remove excess sealer when using **Spirit Colour Enhancer Pro**.

MAINTENANCE

The granite can be cleaned regularly using **Spirit Neutral Cleaner**. If need be, the stone can be cleaned periodically (every 6-12 months) depending on traffic and wear with **Spirit HDC** or **Spirit Bright As**.

RE-SEALING - **Please note:** Weather conditions, harsh cleaning methods using high-pressure cleaners, overuse of alkaline, acid or solvent-based cleaners will affect the long-term performance of the sealer, and may even damage the substrate. Following the appropriate **Spirit Guide** relating to your substrate will ensure the very best protection. The longevity of your sealer is greatly dependant on the following...

1. Using a premium quality sealer.

Spirit Sealers are all premium quality sealers.

2. Proper application of the sealer. This includes the cleaning process prior to sealing.

Sealing a floor that hasn't properly dried, sealing when it's too hot or cold, not mopping up excess sealer and not applying enough sealer are a few of the mistakes made.

3. Where the area is? Is it a high traffic area?

Commercial areas that see more traffic and are cleaned daily will need re-sealing before most domestic areas; however, in domestic situations like, outdoor areas, high-traffic internal areas and shower cubicles, these areas will need to be re-sealed more often. If in doubt, contact Spirit Sealers.

4. How the floor is maintained?

Cleaning regularly with the wrong types of cleaners will break down the sealer prematurely and they are also likely to damage your granite. The cleaners in this guide have been formulated especially for the stone and tile industry.

This is a general guide for Granite. Spirit Sealers always recommends to test first when cleaning or sealing any surface. For more technical information contact sales@spiritsealers.com

