

LITHOFIN FAQs

Do I need to seal my natural stone?

Yes. We recommend that all natural stone is sealed with a premium impregnating sealer from Lithofin. Sealing your natural stone will prevent the staining from water, oil, grease and dirt for many years without altering the materials appearance. Note: Impregnating sealers do not make the surface stain-proof and do not prevent acid etching.

My stonemason has sealed my new tops but it is still staining?

Most stonemasons will seal your natural stone with an impregnating sealer during manufacturing or after installation. The porosity of natural stone varies greatly and some materials require more sealer than others. We highly recommend that you, the client seals you're new top once it is installed for your own piece of mind.

Does a granite kitchen counter top need any sort of special treatment?

At first glance, natural stone surfaces look dense and robust. However, the stone contains pores and capillaries, which allow dirt to penetrate the surface. A protective treatment like Lithofin MN Stain-Stop (or Lithofin Stain-Stop "W") makes the surface resistant to oil, grease and water bourn dirt. Dirt does no longer penetrate the stone and is therefore simple to maintain. The protective treatment in combination with the right maintenance program will prevent staining. Regularly maintain granite tops with Lithofin MN Easy-Clean spray for easy streak free hygienic cleaning.

How often do you need to re-seal my natural stone and porcelain tiles?

- **Natural Stone, travertine and concrete style materials sealed with a Lithofin premium impregnator:**
 - Tops – every 7 to 10 years
 - General areas – 10 years plus
 - Bathrooms – 7 to 10 years
 - Shower recess and walls – every 12 to 24 months
- **Porcelain tiles:**
 - Floors – every 10 years
 - Bathrooms – 7 to 10 years

Note: The reapplication of impregnating sealers can be applied more frequently if required. If you wish to re-seal your natural stone tops more frequently, a quick application of Lithofin MN Stain-Stop >W< will be sufficient to boost the previously applied Lithofin impregnating sealer.

These time frames are governed by the continued use of Lithofin maintenance products and cleaners as stated in the appropriate Lithofin method statements.

The use of corrosive, acidic, heavy alkaline, incorrect cleaners and abrasive products can damage the surface composition and reduce the strength and longevity of the impregnating sealer.

If I am reselling my natural stone which impregnating sealer should I use?

To re-seal natural stone use Lithofin MN Stain-Stop (solvent-based) and re-seal porcelain tiles with Lithofin FZ Stain-Stop (solvent-based). Before re-sealing thoroughly clean the surface with the appropriate Lithofin alkaline-based cleaner.

After using an impregnating sealer on a polished marble or limestone surface, there are dull areas and steaks everywhere. How can they be removed?

Product residues were not removed in time and have dried on the surface. These dull areas can be removed with Lithofin WAX-OFF and a white nylon pad.

My terrace made of terrazzo or another concrete style material only looks good when it is wet (after it rained). How can I achieve the same intense colour when the surface is dry?

Generously apply Lithofin MN Colour Intensifier or Lithofin MN Stainstop PLUS to the clean and completely dry surface. In addition to giving the surface a deep and rich colour these impregnating sealers also protect the material against water, oil, grease and dirt.

Is a solvent-based or water-based impregnating sealer better?

The solvent and the water components are only the carriers for the sealers ingredients. It is the quality of the ingredients in the product that determines the sealers quality, longevity and durability.

Does engineered stone (man-made stone) require sealing?

This should first be confirmed with your stonemason or the engineered stone supplier/importer. Most engineered stones do not require sealing as the surface is very dense and sealing the surface may void the engineered stone supplier's/importers warranty. We recommend you regularly maintain the engineered stone tops with Lithofin MN Easy-Clean spray and floors with Lithofin MN Easy-Care. For more intense cleaning use Lithofin MN Power-Clean. If sealing is required, use Lithofin MN Stain-Stop >W<.

After treating a natural stone surface with Lithofin MN Colour Intensifier or Lithofin Stainstop PLUS, it is now partially shiny. What went wrong?

Lithofin MN Colour Intensifier and Lithofin Stainstop PLUS have probably been applied too generously. The stone could not absorb the quantity of product and the product residues formed puddles which dried on the surface. This surface film can be dissolved with the same product. Simply reapply the product and ensure an even distribution. After 5 to 10 minutes, remove all surface residues with a dry cloth. The colour intensifying effect and the impregnator's effectiveness remain intact. Alternatively, you can remove the impregnator entirely with Lithofin WAX-OFF. Apply the product with a brush and allow it to work for 15 to 20 minutes scrubbing occasionally. Then rinse the surface with plenty of clear water.

What can I do to make the light coloured natural stone surface on my terrace less sensitive to dirt?

Protecting the surface with Lithofin MN Stain-Stop will prevent water, oil, grease and dirt from penetrating into the surface and grout lines, thereby simplifying maintenance.

The cement grouting in my kitchen has turned dark with age. How can I clean the joints and prevent them from turning dark again?

Grease splashes and vapours penetrate into the porous grouting material and with time turn them dark and unsightly. Lithofin's alkaline cleaners dissolve and remove these deposits. However, oil and grease resinify with time, and they become more and more difficult to remove as time goes by. The clean joints should then be treated with Lithofin KF Grout Protector or another Lithofin impregnating sealer depending on the type of tile. This protective treatment will prevent the penetration of oil, grease, dirt and general water stains for many years.

How can I remove fresh paint drops from natural stone?

Put some Lithofin WAX-OFF (undiluted) on the spot. Allow the product to work for 10 to 15 minutes, brushing occasionally. Then rinse the surface with plenty of clear water. Note: Lithofin WAX-OFF will find it difficult to remove old paint marks.

How can I remove permanent marker from tiles or natural stone?

Lithofin KF Mildew-Away will break down most colours. Wet the area with clear water then spray the product on the marks and allow to work for 5 minutes. Lightly brush the surface and then rinse with plenty of water.

The tile / natural stone surface in my entry way is too slippery. What can I do?

First you should thoroughly clean the surface with a Lithofin alkaline cleaner suited to your tiles. If the slippery surface was due to layer forming care products, the problem should now be solved. If the surface is still to slippery, you may require an anti-slip treatment on your surface to slightly roughen the surface. Note: A surface that has a rough surface is more difficult to maintain.

An outdoor granite surface was treated with an impregnator as a protective treatment. After two or three days, the surface turned white. What should be done?

The impregnator has probably been applied to a still moist surface. Remove the protective treatment with Lithofin WAX-OFF. When the surface has completely dried, reapply the impregnator.

Even after cleaning polished porcelain tiles with Lithofin FZ Intensive Cleaner, there are still “clouds” on surface. What should I do?

Sometimes, the polished tiles are not thoroughly cleaned off when they leave the factory and there are still residues from the polishing process. These residues can be removed with acidic cleaners such as Lithofin FZ Cement Residue Remover.

How can I protect a natural stone façade?

Lithofin MN Stain-Stop >W< will protect the surface against the penetration of water, oil, grease and dirt. Outdoors, impregnators should only be applied once the surface is completely clean and dry.

How do I clean my natural stone bathroom?

Regularly maintain your stone surfaces including the shower area with Lithofin MN Easy-Care. For a more intensive clean every 6 to 12 months use Lithofin MN Power-Clean.

Is it possible to achieve sheen on outdoor surfaces?

No. Lithofin's topical sealants are not suited for outdoor use. Sealants can only be used on surfaces where there is no danger of moisture penetrating from below, as this may lead to serious damages. We also do not recommend topical sealants in wet areas and bathroom floors as will reduce the slip resistance. Only use Lithofin impregnating sealers in wet areas, bathrooms and outdoor areas.

How can I remove acid etching from my marble and limestone top?

Marble and limestone both contain calcium which is sensitive to acidic products including champagne, vinegar, citric acid, liquid soap, tomato sauce, cordial etc. Acid has the ability to dissolve the calcium content of the material leaving a dull patch in the surface. This is not a stain but damage to the stone surface. To remove acid etching the surface will require mechanical repolishing. Note: The use of impregnating sealers commonly used on natural stone tops will not prevent acid etching and products like Lithofin MN Polish Cream will only slightly assist to prevent acid etching. Protect the surface from staining with Lithofin MN Stain-Stop, regularly clean the surface with Lithofin MN Easy-Clean spray and apply Lithofin MN Polish Cream every 3-6 months.

A terracotta surface was installed many years ago. Dirt has penetrated the protective wax film. How can this surface be refurbished?

In order to remove the dirt, the wax film must be partially dissolved. Apply Lithofin WAX-OFF to the surface and allow the product to work for 10 to 15 minutes. Brush vigorously and rinse the surface with plenty of clear water. Allow the surface to dry completely. Applying Lithofin MULTI-SEAL to achieve an elegant sheen on the surface or mechanically polish to a high shine.

How can I remove limescale and soap scum from chrome fixtures, glass, tiles in the bathroom and sanitary areas?

Wipe the surfaces with a wet sponge and a few drops of Lithofin KF Active-Clean, allow to work for a few minutes, scrub and then simply rinse with water.

A ceramics surface has dull spots, which have the shape of drops. Presumably, mineral water, sparkling wine or something like it was spilled. Is the tile damaged?

The surface is not damaged, but there was a film of care products on the surface, which has now been partially dissolved. Thoroughly clean the surface with Lithofin KF Power-Clean. Lithofin FZ Vitra-Clean does not build layers or films and should therefore be used for regular maintenance.

My polished porcelain tiles always have a film on them, and they cannot be cleaned without leaving any residues. What should I do?

Apparently, layer-building care products have left residues on the surfaces which are being redistributed with each wiping. Dilute Lithofin FZ Intensive Cleaner approx. 1:5 with water and apply it

to the surface. Allow the product to work for 20 minutes, then brush and thoroughly rinse the surface with plenty of clear water. For regular maintenance, use Lithofin FZ Vitra-Clean (does not build layers).

There is a grey film on my newly installed Terracotta floor. How can I remove it?

The grey film can be removed with Lithofin FZ Cement Residue Remover. Depending on the type of terracotta and the stubbornness of the deposits, dilute the product 1:15 to 1:5 with water. Then apply the solution, allow it to work briefly, brush and rinse off the surface with plenty of water.

Even after I sealed my outdoor area with an impregnating sealer the surface appears dirty. What do I need to do?

The impregnating sealer has sealed the tile and grout line holding the dirt at the top of the surface where it can be easily cleaned away with the appropriate alkaline cleaner suited to your type of tile. Outdoor will require a thorough clean every 6-12 months to remove the dirt which has settled on the tile surface.

My marble or limestone floor has become matt over the years and it even shows tracks where it has been subjected to the heaviest use. How can I bring back a nice sheen on the surface?

First remove any dirt and care product residues with Lithofin MN Power-Clean. Afterwards wipe the surface with Lithofin MN Care-Sheen. In case of hard wear mechanical re-polishing of the surface maybe required. Use Lithofin MN Easy-Care for regular maintenance.

Natural stones show dark spots after putting in silicone joints. How can I remove those?

Brush the surface several times with hot water and a dash of Lithofin MN Power-Clean. Occasionally you may have to put a wet cloth on the area and allow the product to work for a longer period of time.

A timber staining product has come in contact with my natural stone surface. How can this be removed without damaging the stone?

You must treat the stain immediately with Lithofin ASR. Wet the effected area with clear water and leave for a few minutes to penetrate. Apply this special cleaner diluted 1 to 3 with clear water and leave on the surface for approximately one hour. During this time occasionally apply more water and Lithofin ASR and lightly scrub the surface. Once the stain has been removed rinse with plenty of clear water.

How can I remove brown (rust) stains from granite?

Wet the surface with water, apply Lithofin MN Builders Clean, and allow it to work for about one hour. Add some water, brush, and then remove the product. Rinse thoroughly with clear water. In case of stubborn rust staining use Lithofin BERO.

My granite top has been installed for many years and has lost its shine? How do restore the granite to its original appearance?

Granite is a hard stone and in a residential location should not loose its shine with regular use. After a long period of time a surface film of cleaning residues, food stuff and other dirt has developed on the surface. Thoroughly clean the surface with Lithofin MN Power-Clean dilutes 1:5 with clear water and allow to work for 10-20 minutes brushing occasionally to remove the film. Then seal the material with Lithofin MN Stain-Stop and regularly maintain the surface with Lithofin MN Easy-Clean spray.

How can efflorescence from flowers and leaves be removed from terraces?

For natural stone, apply MN Power-Clean undiluted and allow it to work for about 10-30 minutes. Brush, remove the product and then rinse off with clear water. For porcelain clean the surface with Lithofin FZ Intensive-Cleaner.

Can I put hot saucepans directly onto my granite top?

The simple answer is no. If the heat of the saucepan heats the granite it may crack or pop small crystals in the surface. We recommend you do not place very hot objects and do not cut directly on the surface. If your friend has been doing this to their granite top for years, remember natural stone is a natural product direct from the earth and your material will be from a different location having different characteristics.