

General Guide for Installation of Natural Stone

Pre-Sealing

In order to maximise the stone protection, it is always recommended to pre-seal; Some natural stones are classified as [Moisture Sensitive](#). This type of stone must be sealed on all six sides prior to installation using [Aqua Mix® ProBlock - PreSealer](#); this process of Pre-sealing also must take place when the application is around aggressive environments such as around salt-Chlorinated pools and also in wet areas such as shower recesses particularly when installed in surfaces with a water-proof membrane.

Properly sealing the stone will help reduce possible installation problems such as picture framing, soluble minerals contamination (such as pyrites, salt attack erosion...) and [Efflorescence](#). Pre-sealing the stone with [Aqua Mix® ProBlock - PreSealer](#) will also act as a grout release to greatly assist with grout haze clean up. This product performs best if allowed to cure for 48 hours (minimum 24 hours) prior to installation. [Aqua Mix® ProBlock - PreSealer](#) is not an adhesive bond breaker. However, it does alter the why you select your adhesive. ([See attached document](#)).

It should be noted that some Moisture Sensitive Stones can only be installed using a Rapid Setting or an Epoxy Adhesive depending on the stone and specifics of the application. If the stone has a total water absorption rate greater than 5% than we regard that as high risk and should be presealed. For More information refer to [Moisture Sensitive Stone](#)

In some cases, the stone may not need to be pre-sealed as long as the correct installation products and methods are used.

Any stone lower than 2% is generally low risk and may be able to be installed without presealing if testing has been done and the correct adhesives are used. If it's decided that presealing is not required, applying a first coat of the final sealer such as [Aqua Mix® Sealer's Choice® Gold – Rapid Cure](#) (water-based), or [Aqua Mix® Ultra-Solv®](#) (solvent-based) prior to grouting will assist in the grouting process by acting as a grout release.

In external situations, it is important that the ungrouting installed stone is protected from exposure to excessive water (i.e. rain or cleaning). Stone that is grouted when the substrate is saturated can create a permanent discolouration and efflorescence problems. If the stone gets wet, the stone and substrate must be dry before proceeding with the grouting process.

Adhesive

It is recommended whenever installing natural stone, a specialised rapid setting stone adhesive or epoxy should be used. This is to reduce the high alkaline water getting into the stone and affecting the soluble minerals. Using a rapid setting adhesive or epoxy also greatly reduces the chances of problems that can occur during installation such as; warping & efflorescence. It is also highly recommended to back butter before placing.

Grout Haze Removal

All the grout haze should be removed within 3-5 days of grouting. A pH neutral cleaner such as [Aqua Mix® Concentrated Stone & Tile Cleaner](#) can be used if the grout is minimal. If the grout haze is heavier, then [Aqua Mix® NanoScrub®](#) should be used. It is important that no acidic cleaners are used on natural stone.

Final Sealing

Natural Stone is susceptible to staining, it is highly recommended that it is sealed using a premium grade sealer such as; [Aqua Mix® Sealer's Choice® Gold – Rapid Cure](#) (water-based), or [Aqua Mix® Ultra-Solv®](#) (solvent-based). Aqua Mix® has a full range of sealers including economical alternatives if a high level of stain resistance is not required.

Maintenance

- For routine cleaning [Aqua Mix® Concentrated Stone & Tile Cleaner](#) can be added to your mopping liquid at a dilution rate of 1 part product to 80 parts water. This product is a safe to use, streak free pH neutral formula. Using this product on a regular basis will safely remove soiling and help prevent a stubborn build up without damaging the tile, grout or sealer
- For periodic/heavy-duty cleaning [Aqua Mix® Stone Deep Clean](#) can be used with a soft white nylon scouring pad. Follow by rinsing thoroughly.
- For heavy scuff marking or stubborn ground in dirt [Aqua Mix® NanoScrub®](#) is a powerful crème cleaner, formulated with Nano-sized particles that penetrate small surface pores. It is Non-toxic, non-flammable and non-acidic.

Please Note: This is a general guide to installing moisture sensitive Natural Stone. It is always recommended to test first. For more information please visit www.aquamix.com.au or contact Aqua Mix on [1300 AQUA MIX](tel:1300AQUAMIX)