Paving Cleaning & Maintenance

Just like any other part of your garden periodic maintenance is required to keep your paving looking its best. Care should be taken when maintenance tasks are carried out- using the incorrect technique or cleaning solution can result in permanently damaging your stone. Transversely using the appropriate cleaning detergent can make light of your patio maintenance tasks. In this guide we cover best practice and tell you the secrets to keeping a patio looking beautiful for years to come.

Sealing

Why should I seal natural stone?

Unfortunately there’s nothing you can do to your stone that will prevent it from becoming dirty or suffering from staining. Until we work out some kind of cool invisible force-field system of protecting paving we’re stuck with the tried and tested method of preventing any of these stains becoming permanent - a high quality sealant. Not only will a high quality sealant prevent dirt and marks permanently blighting the look of your stone it will also make your regular maintenance tasks of cleaning the paving much easier.

What sealant should I use?

Not all stone sealants are created equal. We highly recommend using an industry leading sealant such as STAINPROOF by DryTreat. The unique properties of DryTreat’s products not only prevent anything penetrating the stone permanently, they also stop any substances coming back up from the lower portion of the slab, especially efflorescence which can temporarily ruin the look of some paving options.

Why do you recommend sealing all sawn products?

All natural stone is porous, however with a sawn product you have literally opened the surface up, making the pores even more exposed. This shouldn’t put you off using a sawn product as they are the perfect way of creating a clean contemporary scheme, and with our pre-sealing service they can still be cheaper than using a porcelain alternative.
Pre-Sealing Service

The Big Deal on Pre-Seal

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide our clients with industry leading products and services we offer a pre-sealing service available for the vast majority of our natural stone products. This service involves the application of STAINPROOF or INTENSIFIA to each individual paving stone you order so that all you need do when your paving arrives is lay it. The sealant is applied in our climate controlled workshop by accredited applicators to ensure optimum bonding between sealant and stone. As we are accredited by DryTreat to apply these products your pre-sealed paving also comes with a manufacturer backed guarantee for 5-15 years giving you peace of mind that your paving will be protected long into the future.

Speed

During the more frustrating winter months when the cold and damp conditions can prevent stone from becoming bone dry (necessary for sealing) we can guarantee that your pre-sealed stone will be with you within 10 working days. This is due to our state of the art indoor facilities that guarantee year-round quality and efficiency from our service. Your paving can be supplied pre-sealed whatever the weather.

Stain-Proofing

Although your Miles Stone paving will still dirty over time, no stain will become permanent. This means that none of the usual things, such as, red wine, grass stains, grease etc. will become a permanent blight on your patio.

Peace of Mind

When you choose to pre-seal stone with us you have the assurance that each piece of paving has been checked, cleaned and sealed. Meaning that any rogue pieces of stone that have been missed by our already stringent quality controls are removed, ensuring every single slab delivered to you is ready to be laid.

Knowledge

We have been working with natural stone for over 40 years and have been involved in the sealing of both external and internal projects for decades. You can be safe in the knowledge that we know what’s best for your paving.
Regular Brushing

As boring as it sounds, the best way to keep your paving in sparkling condition is consistent periodic cleaning with clean water and a stiff outdoor brush. Soak the area you wish to clean with fresh water and systematically agitate the surface dirt in sweeping motions. Rinse the dirt away with a hose or, even better, a power-washer and then leave your paving to dry.

Power Washing

Power washing using a jet wash cleaner is a fantastic way to get your patio looking its best. Not only can you thoroughly clean both the surface and paving joins you can often do so without the need to use detergents and chemicals. You can power wash your patio by just using the wand-lance however you should take care to maintain a distance of at least 500mm from the surface of the stone - any closer and you risk permanently damaging or etching your paving material. If your paving is extremely dirty or is suffering from ingrained dirt you can achieve excellent results by applying Stone & Masonry Cleaner (from DryTreat) and using an emulsifying pad to agitate the surface areas before jet-washing the detergent and debris away. Remember to maintain a good distance from the paving when using any power-washer at all times.

Detergents & Stone

Using the right cleaning detergent can dramatically improve the look of a soiled patio and in some cases completely restore it. However we always advise you use cleaning detergents with extreme caution as if they are not suitable for the stone you’re applying them to they can permanently damage it. Different stains and afflictions can be removed by different chemicals so you should choose the detergent you use with the specific circumstances of your paving in mind. Efferayza is an excellent choice for Sandstones and is particularly effective for removing efflorescence and rust stains. However as it is acid based it should never be used to clean PH sensitive stone such as Limestone. For a wonderfully effective all purpose cleaning detergent that is safe to use on all types of natural stone and porcelain we recommend Stone & Masonry Cleaner. It’s very easy to use and combats a range of stains extremely effectively. You can safely use it on any paving material. For ultra-stubborn stains you can maximise this cleaning agents power by using it in conjunction with the additive SMC Boost. We always advise that you read the instructions of any cleaning product in full before use. You should also apply a small amount to a test area that is not too visible before applying cleaner to large areas. If you are at all in doubt on how to approach cleaning your paving then please do contact a member of our sales team who will be more than happy to advise you on the best course of action - it’s what we’re here for.