

# Guidelines for the maintenance of areas of Burlington stone

A range of British slate products are available that can be used to create a beautiful, natural look for internal and external paving. Burlington Stone is a prestigious manufacturer of British natural stone which has been quarried for over 400 years from the heart of the English Lake District.



## Initial Maintenance

Clean the floor immediately after installation and if it is to be exposed to other trades, cover it up, removing adhesive and grout is quicker and easier before it cures and should be an ongoing part of the installation process. Keep a constant supply of water at hand to sponge off any cement that does get onto the face of the stone.

To remove cured cement sweep or vacuum away all loose dust and debris and where extensive spillage exists scrub with water and neutral detergent using a green pad, then vacuum. If a film of cement still exists scrub again with a black nylon pad or in stubborn cases use grade 3 or 4 steel wool.

This should grind away the cement without affecting the surface. Rinse well with clean water to avoid rust from steel wool then wet vacuum dry. Removal of cured grout from textured finishes can be difficult. If a few deposits exist, chip away with a masonry chisel. In worst cases dilute the appropriate acid one part to four of water, wash the solution over the floor and leave for 15 minutes while foaming subsides. Remove thoroughly with

a wet vacuum. Spot treat again with acid if any stubborn marks remain. Remember acid does not dry and it must be neutralised – dilute 500 gms of washing soda in warm water, flood the floor and leave for 15 minutes, scrub with a brush, wet vacuum the floor, rinse thoroughly and wet vacuum again to remove all traces of washing soda.

## Sealer

Not all internal flooring is sealed and the durability of the stone is not necessarily impaired. Sealing will however make good maintenance easier to achieve as it repels stains and allows dirt to be removed effectively. It will, in general, slightly darken the colour of the stone and in some cases (e.g. sanded or grit blasted) change the appearance more dramatically. A test sample should be undertaken to determine the effect of sealing. Note that acids will break down the sealer and should not be left lying on the surface for any length of time. If applied correctly to perfectly clean stone, sealing provides added protection to the stone and eases maintenance.

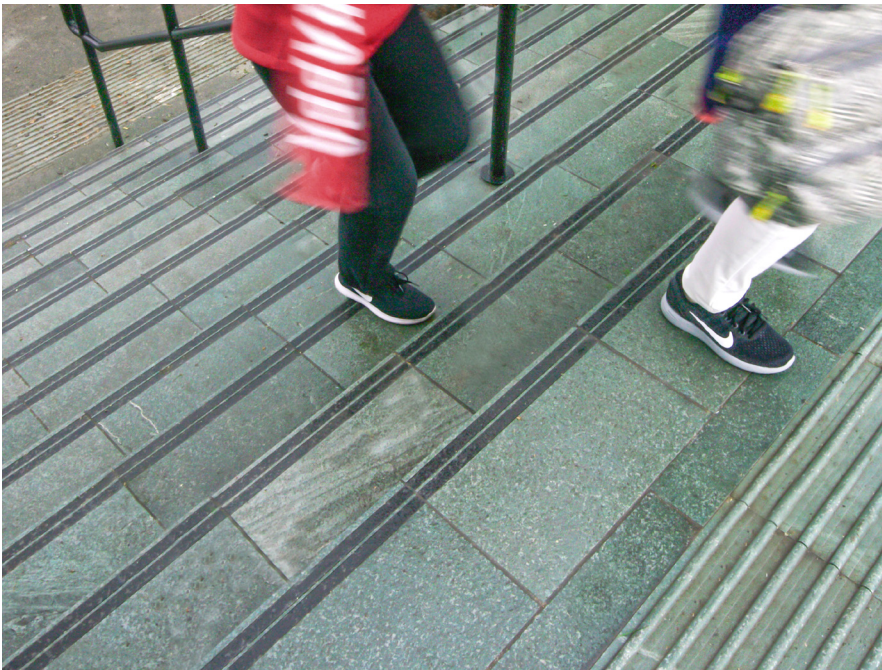
## Maintenance and Cleaning

Whether or not the floor is sealed maintenance is the same:

1. Dry vacuum and sweep to remove all loose dust and dirt.
2. Wash well with clean water in which a non-abrasive neutral detergent (PH7) may be added for heavier soiling. This will remove any spills so they are not smeared across the floor by buffing. Oily or greasy stains can be removed by using white spirit or Soakaway.
3. Floors should ideally be wet vacuumed so as to remove soiling completely then buffed dry with a green nylon pad (floors should not be allowed to dry through evaporation).

## Textured Flooring

The cleaning process is the same but because a textured floor collects and holds dirt more readily, more frequent maintenance will be required. When scrubbing and buffing use a brush attachment in place of the nylon pad.



## Health and Safety

Some of the cleaning methods described above involve the use of chemicals which may be damaging or dangerous if not used in the correct manner. It is important that safety warnings issued by the manufacturer of the chemicals should be read carefully and strictly adhered to.

In general, the following precautions should be taken:

- When using chemicals, protective clothing such as gloves, goggles, boots and overalls should be worn.
- Ensure there is adequate ventilation in confined spaces.
- When using flammable materials, ban the use of cigarettes, naked flames and other sources of ignition in the immediate vicinity.
- When diluting acids, always add acid to water and not water to acid.
- Dispose of, safely, any clothing which is contaminated with chemicals.
- Ensure care is taken not to damage, contaminate or stain any adjoining material.
- Protect personnel operating near the area to be cleaned from any injury or hazard created by the cleaning.
- Whenever possible, care should be taken to ensure that the disposal of 'run-off' materials containing chemicals does not harm personnel, animals or any part of the environment.
- Trials should be carried out on a small, preferably inconspicuous, area of paving to determine the effect of the chemicals before treating a larger area.

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