

# MAINTAINING STONE TILES AS FLOORING OR WALL CLADDING

- **Protecting the Stone:**

We assume that the stone has been treated with a suitable impregnator or stone Seal. Please see advice sheet Fixing Stone Tiles as Flooring and Wall Cladding.

- **Cleaning the stone:**

It is better to clean the floor and walls “little but often” with the correct product, rather than enthusiastically and regularly with the wrong one. Some good ‘household cleaners’ will clean off the protector and not help the long life of the floor. Worse still they can damage the face of the stone or remove a polish from marble surfaces.

Wipe up any spillages as soon as possible. Remove dust and other debris regularly with a ‘just damp’ mop

If the stone has been protected with “Stainstop”, “Easy-care” also from Lithofin, should be used for day-to-day cleaning.

Any suitable impregnator will provide a barrier to ingress of dirt and spills but the maintenance of the stone is key. As every housewife knows on the continent of Europe it is wise to keep a bottle of dilute **Marseilles Soap** under the bathroom or kitchen sink. It is generally available from every supermarket in the UK in the form of **Soap Flakes**, rather than in solution. This should be used on all natural surfaces from Wood to Stone and Marble.

Dissolve Soap Flakes in warm water in a bucket and mop regularly, especially with a new floor.

An occasional clean may be required with a stronger agent, such as “Wexa” by Lithofin, but do not overclean your stone tiles with scrubbers and chemicals.

Tops and shower areas may need regular maintenance. A busy kitchen top is much less likely to stain than an occasionally used or neglected top.

As soon as tomato sauce or olive oil is spilt it should be wiped away. Wiping and washing is EVERYTHING.

The same rules apply for vanity tops. Shower areas may need a regular treatment with a polishing crème and in hard water areas the cloudy deposits will need to be removed with diluted “Limescale Away” with the area subsequently re-treated with “Stainstop” or other suitable impregnator.