



Great Britain Tile, Inc.

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Stone Waiver

- **Great Britain Tile, Inc.** is not responsible for any color or shade variations, filling, chips or other minor imperfections associated with the purchased natural stone.
- Marble, granite and natural stone all are products of nature. It is not possible to guarantee that all color and markings, nor that every characteristics of a sample piece, will be uniformly present in every piece.
- Natural products can and will vary in shade and texture. It is essential that materials be carefully examined for color, texture, size and variation of thickness prior to installation.
- Care should be taken to ensure a satisfactory mix of color, shade variation and natural pattern prior to setting to provide an aesthetically pleasing end result.
- Natural stone tiles will come with some imperfections and these should not be viewed as defects. For example, some limestone and marbles will show fossil markings. These can appear as shells or darker patches. Slates will vary enormously in color. Some stones will not be flat or square, and may be chipped.
- The stone installation process is critical. We would always recommend installation by a professional tile installer. The installer should be familiar with the various products and techniques employed to seal, finish and properly realize the beauty of natural materials.
- Some tiles are packed in wet conditions. Drying will occur quickly after unpacking and examination. Tiles will lighten as they dry.
- Wastage factor of up to 10% should be allowed. This caters for minor transit damage, aids the selection process and enables perimeter and other cutting waste. Tiles with unsightly marks can be used as cuts.
- Marble, granite and all natural stone are products of nature. It is not possible to guarantee that all color and markings, nor that every characteristics of a sample piece will be uniformly present in every piece.
- **Installation constitutes acceptance!**

Stone Care

- Most natural tiles need to be sealed prior to and after grouting.
 - A premium natural look penetrating/impregnating sealer is the normal choice on polished or honed marble, limestone, granite, or where the natural color of a slate is desired. A stone enhancer sealer is often used on tumbled, natural stones, or on slate where a darker, enriched or highlighted character is desired. When choosing either one of these two types of sealers, make sure the brand you have chosen is formulated to provide maximum stain protection for stone products. Stone products should be tested periodically to insure that the sealer is working effectively.
 - Penetrating/impregnating stone sealers are a no-sheen, natural look sealer that can be water-based or solvent-based, good for interior and exterior applications. Most quality sealers of this type are rated to protect the stone a minimum of 10 years.
 - Stone enhancer sealers are also a no-sheen, penetrating/ impregnating sealer that is formulated to darken, enrich, and highlight the natural color and beauty of tumbled, antique, or slate products. They will rejuvenate and improve the

appearance of worn and weathered stone. However, they will also darken the color of grout joints. They are, generally, suitable for interior and exterior use, and rated to protect the stone a minimum of 3 years. Most floor coverings also benefit from color enhancement through the application of waxes or chemical color enhancers.

- Natural stone requires a different maintenance routine than traditional, man-made ceramic tile. Many of the cleaners acceptable for use on ceramic tile can stain, damage, or dull stone. Natural stone should be cleaned with neutral cleaners. Stone cleaners should never contain acid or bleach. Acids, even a light solution of vinegar and water, will etch and eventually damage natural stone.

(Stone care products only use cleaners specifically designed for stone.) These cleaners contain no acids and are concentrated neutral pH cleaners that will not affect existing sealers or wax-type coatings. A solution of the cleaner and water mixed to manufacturer instructions should be applied to the tile surface with a sponge or mop. On walls, kitchen counters, or vanity tops, a spray bottle can be used to apply the cleaning solution. Allow sitting for manufacturers' specified amount of time (usually 3 to 5 minutes). Agitate with a sponge, synthetic mop, soft bristle brush, or through the use of a floor-scrubbing machine. Mop up dirty solution and buff dry.

Once the stone has been cleaned, you can periodically apply a Spray-Buffer wax-type floor finish to enhance the beauty and luster of polished stone (including countertops). Apply the finish with spray applicator and buff immediately with a white nylon pad. Reapply as often as needed, depending on volume of surface traffic and consistency of routine maintenance program. This product is not designed to restore the original shine, but is intended to maintain and protect the original shine.

Heavy Duty Stone Cleaning:

- When stone areas have been neglected, you will need to use a heavy-duty stone cleaner and degreaser to effectively remove dirt, grease, grime, waxes, and floor finishes. These cleaning products are concentrated and designed to deep clean the stone without damaging it.

Apply the solution of the cleaner and water mix per manufacturer instructions to the stone surface with a sponge or mop. Allow to stand for manufacturer-specified amount of time. Agitate with a sponge, synthetic mop, soft bristle brush, or through the use of a floor-scrubbing machine. Mop up dirty solution and buff dry. Be sure to change out the cleaning solution every 100 square feet to avoid reintroducing dirty water during the cleaning process. Rinse thoroughly with clean water when finished. After cleaning you may apply the Spray-Buffer wax-type floor finish to enhance the natural shine.

Stain Removal:

- Stone Poultice will remove stains and grout haze from stone. Poultice is a fine, non-acidic, absorptive clay cleaning powder that removes deep-set oil stains, grease and light cementitious grout haze from polished and unpolished natural stone. CAUTION: Poultice may dull the shine of the polished stone. If this occurs you will need to use a marble polish to restore the natural shine.

Restoration:

- If a marble polish has become dull, scratched or etched, you can restore the natural shine through the use of a marble polish. Some marble polishes are available in kits. The process can be enhanced with the use of floor buffing machines. The process is generally a re-crystallization process to remove fine scratches and restore the original shine and polish to the stone. This is not an application of a topical sealer or wax to cover-up damaged or worn surfaces.