

Marble, Limestone, & Travertine FLOOR CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

***Limestone & Travertine are maintained in the same way.

Marble is an igneous stone that occurs naturally through the metamorphosis of limestone. It contains many different compounds, but consists mainly of calcium carbonate which gives marble its generally light and creamy hue. Colour variations in white marble are caused by impurities from other substances. In the stone trade, marble is defined by any crystalline calcitic rock capable of being used as a building material and taking on a shine.

Today, marble is used primarily in bathroom vanities, kitchens, fireplace surroundings, hearths, and tile stone. Marble's elegance and beauty gives any home an appealing quality. It provides a pure, graceful look.

TIPS FOR FLOOR MAINTENANCE:

- Seal your floor with *penetrating sealer* (Impregnators) every two to three years after a deep cleaning. The sealer protects your floors from spills and makes it easier to clean.
- Sand, little rocks, dust and other debris can scratch the floor easily. Keep a good mat at the entrance to trap them.
- Carry furniture when moving it across the room instead of sliding it. Use felt pads in all your furniture to protect your natural stone floor.
- Clean your spills as soon as they happen, by soaking them up (using a non-abrasive sponge or a dry towel), and make sure you do not rub or smear it on the floor. The sooner you clean your spills, the lesser the damage.
- Acidic / Alkaline substances causes etch marks. The more time you leave the spill on the floor, the bigger the damage and the more difficult it will be to fix it. A good *penetrating sealer* will help prevent further damage.
- Be sure to use *neutral cleaners* that says "MARBLE CLEANER" on the label (for your daily cleaning), since they are suitable for every natural stone floor. Common household cleaners can have harsh acidic or alkaline components that could etch or dull your marble floors. NEVER use vinegar to clean natural stone floors.

- *Steam cleaning* is the closest way to do a good cleaning on natural stone floors, (even on ceramic floors). When you use Steam cleaning pads, change them frequently and try to use them, only on a *small area at a time*.

- *Wet-mopping* floors make the cleaning work harder, since you need to wash your mop very frequently. In addition, the mopping process requires careful attention when it comes to natural stone floors.

*** If you use the same dirty mop on bigger areas (without continuously cleaning the mop), you are spreading the dirt and muck further, clogging the micro pores of your stone floors. Without being aware of it, you are causing the microscopic dust particles to sink deeper into the grout lines, and creating a build up (into the larger porous crevices of the stone). This issue may not be noticeable at first, but within a few months time, you will see a big difference as your floor starts to appear dull, unpleasant and worn out.