

## **Maintenance of Polished Marble Floors**

### Selection Considerations

In determining the suitability of a polished marble floor finish for a particular application, awareness of material and surface finish characteristics are important as the extent of any pitting or fissures varies with each material. Fissures, pitting and veins may show up as a break in the polish. Some materials may have variation in density resulting in high and low spots in the polish. These characteristics may “open” or become more apparent with wear over time, if you are not clear about this aspect of the material you are considering please discuss with one of our consultants. The vulnerability of the polish to abrasive action, and the risk of staining due to the porous nature of the material, can fortunately both be minimised. This is due to the development and availability of chemical impregnators and surface treatments which protect and enhance the polished finish, and reduce the risk of staining. Any measure that can be taken to minimise trafficking of sand or other similar abrasive materials from adjacent or external areas should be considered a priority (e.g. mats and use of other entries for regular internal and external traffic). Careful consideration must be given to the fact that in any potential application site conditions as well as owner expectations are usually unique to that particular situation.

### Washing and Cleaning

Normal household maintenance involves periodic washing with clean, potable water. A dash of methylated spirits can be added to help minimise streaking or the need for dry buffing on completion. (Do not use Ajax, Jiff or other aggressive cleaning products). Alternatively use Johnsons View Quick non rinse cleaner, (see recommendation below). For removal of difficult marks, we recommend “Tempo Heavy Duty Cleaner” (see recommendation below). “Tempo” is an aggressive yet non-acidic neutral cleaning agent; however rubber gloves should be used, while applying this product. If it is necessary to use a detergent it is important that it be a neutral product. Mild phosphate free biodegradable liquid dish soaps, soapflakes or powders are acceptable if rinsing is thorough on completion.

Enjo Approach: As an environmentally friendly approach consider the “Enjo” approach where washing with cold water only is recommended followed by use of “ Method Squirt and Mop Hard Floor Cleaner”, a chemical free product that does not require rinsing and leaves an appealing finish on the floor. Due to the availability of new mopping implements and fabrics, washing without the risk of leaving streaks has become easy to achieve (see recommendation below for “Enjo” and “Method” products).

Option specific to stone industry: “Lithofin MN Easy Care” is a cleaning product designed for regular maintenance. MN Easy Care cleans and enhances in one action (that is, no rinsing required). For removal of difficult marks consider “Lithofin” MN Power Clean (see product recommendations below)

### Sealing

On completion of the installation of a polished marble floor, we recommend that it be sealed with “**Stain Proof**” by “**Dry Treat**”, ([www.drytreat.com](http://www.drytreat.com)). This is a penetrating sealer and does not change the appearance of the material or leave a film on the surface. Note that it is critical that the floor is professionally cleaned prior to sealing allowing adequate time to dry prior to application. After application of the sealer any excess sealer residue should be removed by buffing with a white nylon pad. While “Stain Proof” is extremely effective it does not provide resistance to acidic substances (e.g. alcohol or citrus juice). The “Dry Treat” application has a 15 year guarantee if applied by certified applicator. See recommendation below.

### Protection of polished finish

While some households maintain a polished stone floor in pristine condition due to a “barefoot or socks only policy” this is not practical for most. An alternative approach is to apply a wax based surface sealer providing on going protection similar to that used in shopping malls and hotel foyers. For consultation about the most suitable product for the application in question please contact Airlite Specialist Services, (see recommendation below). This type of wax application should be reapplied on a 6 to 12 monthly basis depending on the level of traffic and is therefore more maintenance intensive. If no wax application is applied and normal pedestrian traffic with footwear from external areas is allowed traffic marks and loss of polish will occur within a short period of time. Simply buffing in between applications will enhance the finish and appearance at any time.

For further clarification or discussion, please do not hesitate to discuss the above further with our showroom staff.

### Recommendations

1. “Enjo” Mopping implement and fabrics – “Enjo” products, contact Kathy Smith 0400363960
2. Method cleaning products - contact Kathy Smith 0400363960
3. Neutral Detergent recommendation: Johnsons “**View Quick**” and “ **Tempo Heavy Duty Cleaner** available from:
  - a. Bunzl Cash Store: 346 Newcastle Street, Perth ph. 9328 4200
  - b. Campbells Janitor Supplies: 22 Irvine Street, Bayswater, ph. 9370 5100
  - c. Statewide Cleaning Supplies: 39 Frobisher Street, Osborne Park, ph9444 8677
4. Recommended application contractor – Airlite Specialist Services Ltd – Ph: 9443 6789.



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