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Natural Stone Tile: Care and Maintenance

Natural Stone

Granite, marble, travertine, limestone, quartzite, and slate are quarried and fabricated. They vary not just in appearance, but in composition, strength, finish, wearability, slip resistance, and stain resistance. The same material will vary from piece to piece; natural stone's unique beauty and variations are part of its enduring appeal.

After Installation and Cleanup

Protect stone floors from construction dirt and abrasion with cardboard or craft paper. Plywood should cover flooring subjected to loads, and in exterior entryways floormats should be utilized. Keep extra tile from the original lot for possible future repairs.

Sealing

Sealing is recommended for most stones installed on walls, floors, and on some countertops. Sealers appropriate for your installation are available, including sealers for color-enhancing, water-repelling (for showers), and oil-repelling (for kitchens).

Routine Maintenance

Sweep clean or vacuum as necessary to remove sand and other abrasives that could scratch the finish. Wet clean with a pH-neutral detergent and rinse with clean water. Change water frequently during the cleaning process and remove excess water.

Precautions

Avoid abrasive, acidic or strong alkaline cleaners as they can damage the stone finish. Avoid placing hot materials such as pots and pans on stone counters. Use squeegees in shower areas to reduce the buildup of soap films.

Spills

Clean up spills promptly to prevent slip/fall accidents. Marble, travertine, and limestone are especially susceptible to acid etching and stains. Use coasters on marble countertops and wipe up spills quickly, even if the stone is sealed.

Durability

Natural stone is durable and can be cleaned frequently and often repaired. Tile By Design carries a complete line of cleaning and sealing products for stone, and we can recommend stone maintenance and restoration companies.

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