



# HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR STONE

CA' PIETRA  
ARTISANS



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Natural stone has a quiet, timeless beauty, each piece unique, formed by the earth and chosen for the way it can transform a space. At Ca' Pietra, we want you to enjoy that beauty not just today, but for many years to come.

That's why we've partnered with our friends at Athena Stonecare to offer expert guidance on how to look after your stone with care and confidence. With just a few simple habits, you can preserve the character of your stone and help it age gracefully, becoming part of the life of your home.

## YOUR STONE

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STONE TYPE (NAME)

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INSTALLATION DATE

# SEALING & PROTECTING

Whether it's limestone in the hallway or marble in the bathroom, every stone benefits from a little protection. Sealing enhances durability, helps prevent marks and gently enriches the natural tone of the surface.

## There are two ways to seal stone:

Impregnators work by sinking into the stone, offering long-term protection while maintaining its natural look or softly deepening the colour, depending on your preference.

Surface sealants create a protective layer on top of the stone with either a matt, satin or gloss look. These are ideal for internal spaces but aren't suitable for wet areas polished stone or outdoor use.

## How long will it last?

Impregnators don't wear away with time, but daily use can gradually expose new areas of stone, especially in busier parts of the home. These might need occasional resealing to maintain their protection.

Surface sealants are designed to take on everyday life, from light spills to cleaning routines and may need a fresh coat now and then to keep things looking their best.



# CARING FOR YOUR STONE FLOORS

Stone flooring brings depth and texture to a space – but it also works hard every day. A few simple care habits will help preserve its natural charm and keep it looking beautiful for years to come.

## We recommend:

- Placing good-quality doormats inside and out to reduce dirt and grit that can scratch your floors.
- Removing shoes where possible – small stones, hard soles, or stilettos can be surprisingly abrasive.
- Using a soft sweeping tool like a long-haired Swiffer for regular dusting – it's gentler than vacuuming and far more efficient for picking up everyday particles.
- Cleaning with a quality mop and bucket set, such as a Kentucky Mop with a Ladybug Bucket, and always using a pH-neutral, stone-safe cleaner.
- Protecting furniture legs with felt pads or silicone coasters to avoid scratches or dents.
- Reapplying wax finishes periodically on stone types like terracotta, travertine or slate to maintain their soft lustre.
- Considering a compact scrubber-dryer for textured or riven surfaces, where standard mopping can fall short.

## A few things to avoid:

- Steam cleaners – they may seem effective, but the heat and moisture can break down sealants over time.
- Frequent wet mopping – too much water can be just as unhelpful as too little.
- Letting mop water sit on the floor – the solution can seep back into the stone's pores and grout, dulling the surface.
- Harsh chemicals – strong alkaline or acidic cleaners can strip sealants and damage stone finishes.

# CARING FOR STONE IN YOUR BATHROOM

## We recommend:

- Cleaning vanity tops regularly using only pH neutral stone cleaners – if in doubt check the label or give us a call.
- Cleaning your shower and bath area daily. The easiest and most effective way is to spray the walls and floor of the stall with a stone-safe cleaner, then squeegee down after everybody in the home has taken a shower for the day. This will stop hard water deposits on the surface of the stone.
- Ventilating your bathroom as much as possible. Inadequate ventilation can cause stone surfaces to suffer from moisture damage and even mould and mildew growth.
- Using alcohol to clean your windows and mirrors, as it will produce the same results as glass-specific cleaners without the risk of damaging your stone.
- Investing in a cupboard, coaster or tray for your bottles and cosmetics, to avoid the temptation of putting them down on a stone surface.
- Keeping an eye on grout and particularly silicone throughout the bathroom. If it looks worn or loose then consider replacement, as water that gets behind the stone can cause damage beyond repair.
- For dark coloured stone, periodically applying a colour enhancing impregnator will not only help protect your stone but will enrich the colour and keep the surface looking good for as long as possible.

## A few things to avoid:

- Cleaning areas of your bathroom with harsh chemicals as over spray or spillage could damage your stone. For example, many glass and metal cleaners will contain acid, so check the ingredient list before spraying near your natural stone. It only takes a small amount of damage to require an expensive restoration. The pH of a product is rarely advertised, but often citric acid, lactic acid or similar ingredients will be published.
- Placing and leaving wet cosmetic or perfume bottles directly on your stone surface.
- Using any limescale removers, mould removers or soap scum removers on polished stone unless the label specifically states they are 'stone-safe'. The chemical composition is likely to be too strong and will etch the stone surface.
- Scrubbing the surface of your stone vanity tops, shower walls or bathroom floors with any rough textured scouring pads, as these could scratch the surface of the stone. | Using bleach or toilet cleaner in a liberal fashion that is likely to splash onto floors unless you have completely protected surrounding stone.
- Letting metal bathroom accessories (toilet brush holder, toilet paper stand, etc.) sit directly on the stone floor. Moisture, even from condensation, will pool around the bases and can cause unsightly and difficult-to-remove rust marks to the stone.



*Cleaning vanity tops regularly using only pH neutral stone cleaners*



CREDIT: Overtury Interiors. Photographer @jamesbalstoninteriors



CREDIT: Bathroom design, installation and photography by Simply Bathrooms (Surrey) Ltd



*Use a daily stone-safe cleaner on marble worktops*

## CARING FOR WORKTOPS

Stone worktops bring a sense of permanence and beauty to the busiest room in the home. Whether you've chosen marble, limestone, or something more robust like granite, a little care goes a long way toward maintaining that elegance day after day.

### For marble, limestone, and other softer stones:

These surfaces are naturally porous and more susceptible to etching – especially from acidic foods and drinks.

#### We recommend:

- Using a daily stone-safe cleaner such as Fila Refresh – it gently cleans while enhancing the performance of the sealant.
- Protecting from acids – citrus fruits, wine, vinegar and condiments can all mark the surface if left to sit. A non-permanent layer, such as a bespoke piece of toughened glass, can offer discreet protection for kitchen islands or dining tables.
- Acting quickly on spills – blot (don't wipe) to avoid spreading the liquid.
- Avoiding prolonged contact with hot pans, oily jars or heavy cooking utensils.

#### Please Avoid:

- Letting acidic spills sit on the stone – the longer they stay, the more likely they'll cause damage. Please note that the contact of acids on calcium-based stones will lead to instant etch marks.
- Using abrasive pads – even granite can be scratched by the wrong scourer. Stick to plastic or net-covered sponges.
- Resting chemical cleaning bags or kits on the worktop – particularly with oven-cleaning kits, which contain strong degreasers that can bleach or etch the stone.

### For granite, quartz and engineered stones:

These materials are more durable, but still deserve careful handling.

#### We recommend:

- Cleaning with a pH-neutral cleaner such as Fila Clean and Shine.
- Blotting spills promptly to prevent staining.
- Loosening dried spills gently, allowing cleaner to sit before wiping with a soft cloth or sponge.
- Keeping oils, sauces and cleaning chemicals off the surface as much as possible – even engineered stones can be discoloured by strong products.
- Using Fila Refresh regularly to maintain both cleanliness and protection.

# CARING FOR YOUR STONE PAVING

## We recommend:

- Regularly sweeping away dead leaves and dirt .
- Regularly washing away any dirt and animal droppings with a hose and sweeping brush.
- Regularly washing any dried chlorine marks around a swimming pool with clean water and a sweeping brush.
- Protecting from acids – citrus fruits, wine, vinegar and condiments can all mark the surface if left to sit.
- Wiping away any oil or fat spills from outdoor cooking before they stain the stone.
- Applying a spray-on cleaning agent, such as our Sarsen Home Paving Deep Clean, at least once a year for a deep clean, followed by a reapplication of sealer.

## A few things to avoid:

- Using a pressure washer as a standard cleaning tool. Whilst pressure washers can be used on occasion to remove very resistant stains, pressure washers remove sealant and open the pores of the stone, leaving it more susceptible to dirt ingress; and weakening the fabric of the stone itself.
- Using acidic cleaners, which will change the surface of the stone.
- Installing new, unseasoned oak, chestnut, or other high-tannin wooden furniture or fixtures directly onto your stone, as the tannins will stain the paving (this can be removed using our Sarsen Home Deep Clean product).

For more details on how natural stone paving weathers, please see the 'Understanding Weathering of Natural Stone External Paving' document on our website.





## WHEN TO CALL IN A SPECIALIST

Stone is resilient – but like anything natural, it sometimes needs expert attention. We've partnered with Athena Stonecare, who specialise in the maintenance and restoration of natural stone throughout London and the Home Counties.

Here are a few occasions when it's worth calling in their team:

### **Uneven tiles (lippage)**

Where tiles don't sit flush, dirt can accumulate and movement can cause wear. Athena can gently grind and refinish floors to restore a more seamless surface and prevent trip hazards.

### **Dulling or loss of polish**

Over time, softer stones like marble may lose their sheen. Athena offers diamond polishing and resurfacing to revive that original lustre.

### **Pitting**

Particularly common in travertine, small pits can appear due to over-wetting or improper cleaning. These can be filled and finished for a smooth, refined result.

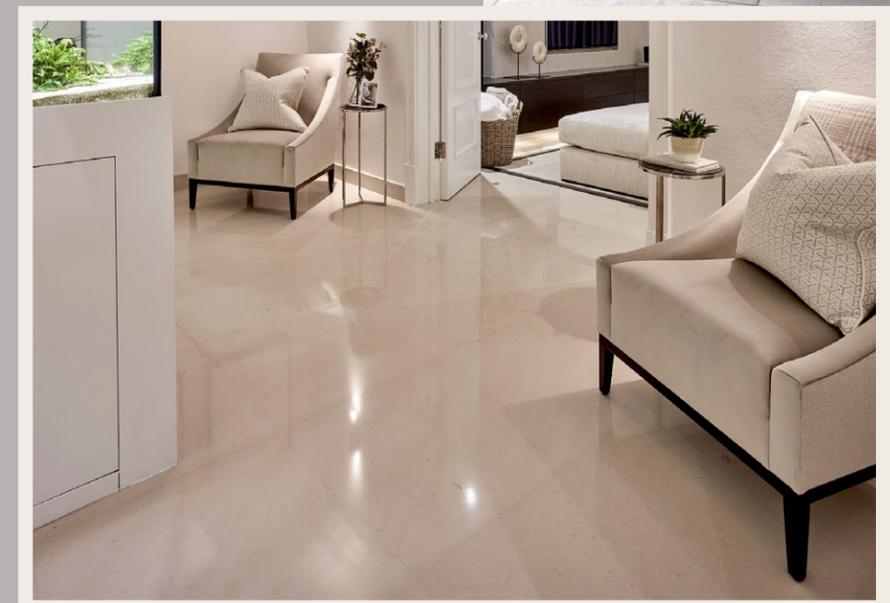
### **Etching**

Caused by acidic contact, etching looks like a dull stain but is actually a change in the surface texture. This can be especially visible on polished stone. Athena can resurface or re-polish to minimise or remove the marks.

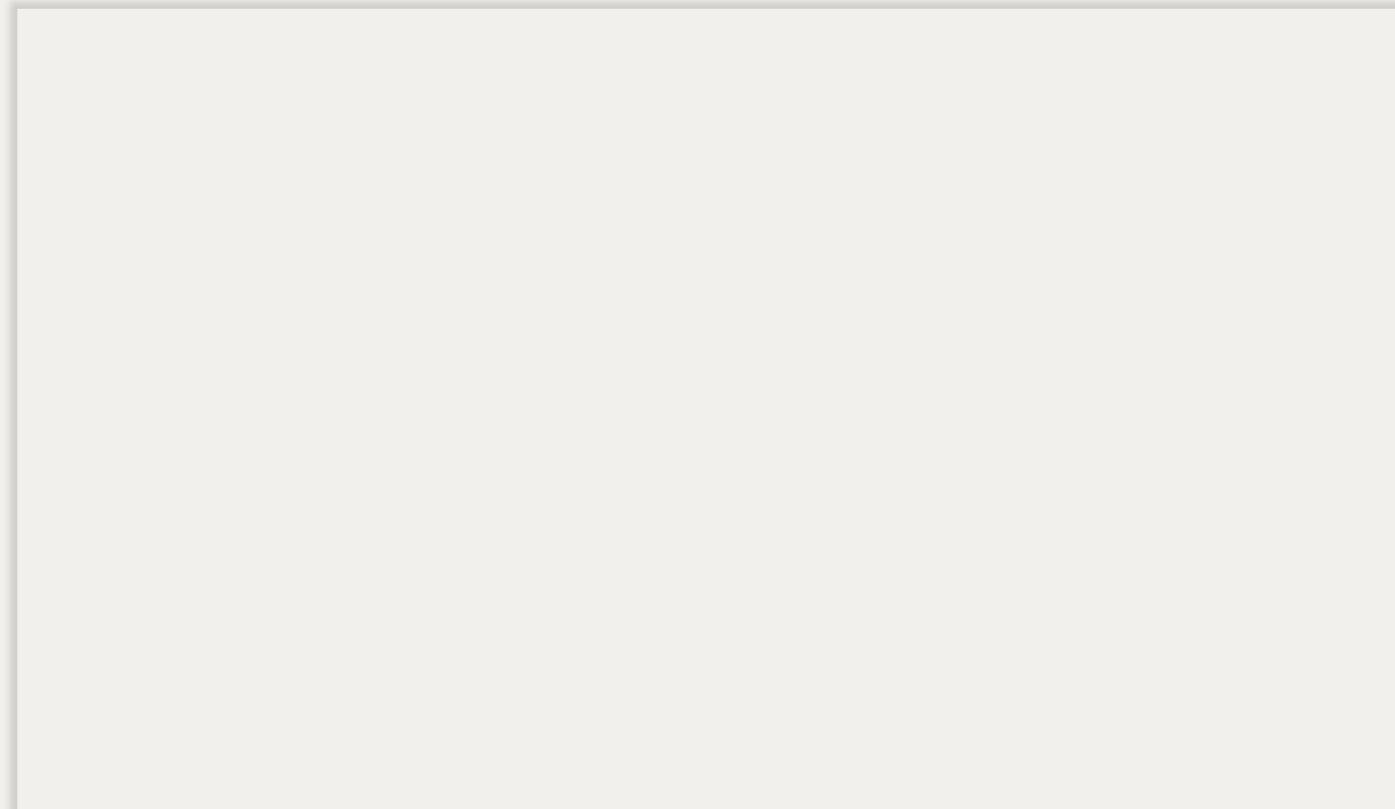
### **Water marks or rings**

Hard water often leaves behind mineral deposits. These are difficult to remove with regular cleaning but can be treated professionally using specialist tools.

\*Please note: Athena Stonecare is a recommended partner but operates independently from Ca' Pietra.







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