

## CHAPTER NINETEEN

## EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE™

## CONCRETE SEALING GUIDE

**Preparation**

Concrete tiles must be sealed to preserve color and appearance. We recommend sealing before installation, before grouting, and after grouting to avoid staining and to ease clean up after each step.

NOTE: Sealing will change color and texture of the original tile and the extent will vary depending on the specific sealer. Make sure to test first on a loose tile or small, unobtrusive area to ensure results are as desired.

Make sure to seal grout joints or use waterproof grout when installing tiles that are pre-sealed on the jobsite.

Confirm that selected sealer is appropriate for concrete materials.

Topical sealers coat the surface to create a barrier against stains and water intrusion and typically have a sheen from satin to high gloss. Penetrating sealers work below the surface for a minimal change of appearance but offer less protection than topical sealers.

Concrete tiles are porous and will develop a unique patina over time. The effect will be more pronounced with penetrating sealer and even more so if products are not properly sealed. Always use a high quality sealer designed for concrete tile if you can't use a recommended sealer. Select sealer carefully as sealers from big box stores are sometimes lower grade versions of the same brands.

Wet-cast concrete tiles are manufactured with concrete and delivered unsealed. Therefore, it is important to cover and protect material from weather, jobsite debris, and other contaminants. Tiles should be stored in their original packaging for best results.

**Application**

**Make sure to test sealer first on a loose piece or small unobtrusive area before sealing the installation.** Once sealed, the appearance of the tiles will change permanently. Stripping the sealer is a labor-intensive process that can damage tiles and may not be possible with some sealers.

Sealer can change the color and sheen so make sure to test first to ensure finished look is as desired. Test sealer on loose pieces, a mockup, or a small, unobtrusive area.

Carefully follow the sealer manufacturer's directions. Proper application is key to a long lasting finish. Use the applicator or method recommended by the sealer manufacturer. High-quality rollers and brushes should be used. For higher quality use DRALON, mohair, animal hair, or lintless varieties.

The surface of the tile must be clean and dry prior to sealing. Any discoloration, residue or grout haze on the tile's surface must be removed or will be locked in the sealed surface.



Do NOT pressure wash tiles before or after sealing. Do NOT use cleaning machines prior to sealing.

Two coats of sealer are typically required so be aware of the recommended cure time before applying additional coats. Water should bead up on surface if tiles are fully sealed. If water darkens the surface, additional coat(s) of sealer are required to properly seal a new installation or reseal an existing installation.

Make sure sealed surface is properly cured per the sealer manufacturer's instructions before allowing traffic by users or other trades. Protect area from dust and debris. Make sure to seal grout joints or use waterproof grout when installing tiles that are pre-sealed on the jobsite.

### **Maintenance**

Do not use acidic or caustic cleaners which can remove the sealer and damage tiles. Clean stains promptly as they will eventually penetrate the sealed surface. Acidic stains and oils especially should be cleaned quickly.

Do not strip or otherwise remove sealer as this may damage tile color or surface appearance. Make sure sealer is appropriate for the specific installation prior to application.

Reseal when water no longer beads on surface and is immediately absorbed when applied.

### **Recommended Sealer**

#### **STONETECH® BULLETPROOF SEALER**

STONETECH® BulletProof® Sealer is a water-based penetrating sealer that provides maximum stain and antimicrobial product protection while preserving the natural look of the surface. It can be used as a grout sealer, tile sealer, masonry sealer and in many other applications. This premium sealer offers the best protection on the most porous natural stone, tile, masonry and grout surfaces in interior and exterior applications.

- Maximum stain protection against oil and water based stains
- Best sealer for the most porous natural stone, tile, masonry and grout
- Water-based formula - better for you and the environment
- Low odor, non-flammable and weather resistant - for interior and exterior use