



## FINISHING OF STONE, SLATE & TERRACOTTA FLOORING

It is worth noting that all stone is naturally porous to varying degrees. For modern-day living and in order to improve stain resistance, we highly advise for your stone to be sealed.

### Travertine, Limestone & Marble

After installation, as described in **GS2** and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, ensure the stone is both thoroughly clean and dry. Apply 1 coat of *Lithofin Stainstop Plus*, a solvent based sealant, with a brush or roller prior to grouting. This then prevents grout residues adhering to the surface and makes cleaning any grout off much easier.

For areas of poor ventilation *Lithofin Stainstop W*, a water-based sealant is also available. After grouting and cleaning up the stone, ensuring the grout has dried, a further 2 coats of the sealant should be applied to the whole of the area, sealing the stone completely and the grout.

Any sealant residues must be cleaned off the surface immediately to avoid streaking. *Lithofin Stainstop Plus* produces a invisible matt finish, and if desired a *Liquid Stonewax* may be applied forming a satin sheen protective layer, making it easier to clean daily dirt and grime from the stone.

### Riven Slate

Slate is naturally less porous, so a *Liquid Stonewax* is suitable for a satin sheen finish, or *Lithofin Stainstop Plus* for a invisible matt finish.

A coat of either should be applied after installation but before grouting (as above), and then 2 further coats after grouting is completely dry as well as set, ensuring the tiles are free from residues and dirt.

### Sandstone & Schist

These stones have a coarse surface texture and are highly porous, and may take several coats before it reaches saturation point. As with most stones, apply 1 coat *Lithofin Stainstop Plus* prior to grouting, and then a further 2 or more coats after grouting and cleaning. *Liquid Stonewax* is not recommended.

### Terracotta

Terracotta requires the most sealing of all our products. All Terracotta tiles are raw, highly porous and need total impregnation and sealing.

It is worth noting that due to the nature of Terracotta, salts and minerals present within the tiles may rise to the surface during the fixing process.

The fixed Terracotta tiles need to be clean and dry prior to an initial saturation coat 50/50 mix of *Boiled Linseed Oil* and *White Spirit*, and apply generously with a brush or roller. Any surplus unabsorbed liquid must be wiped away from the surface after every 2hrs, and left for 24hrs to dry.

Once dry, the tiles can then be carefully grouted ensuring that any grout residues are cleaned from the tile surfaces. The grout will set in approx 2-3hrs but must be left to dry completely. Once dry, coat the entire surface with 2-3 additional coats with a 3:1 mix of *Boiled Linseed Oil* and *White spirit*, ensuring that the tiles are completely coated. After 3-4 days, ensuring that the floor is dry and thoroughly clean, a final finish may be applied. *Terracotta Sealant* will produce a slightly glossy finish, *Liquid Stonewax* leaving a satin sheen finish and a protective layer, or 1-2 coats of *Lithofin Stainstop Plus* for a matt finish.

NOTE: With the exception of *Boiled Linseed Oil* being applied generously, all other sealers should be used sparingly to avoid leaving surface residue.

For further information or help on any aspects of installation of finishing, please contact Earth Wood and Stone's technical department who will be only too happy to help. We can also carry out site visits with a full report without charge or obligation.