



STONETECH[®] Sealing, Maintenance, and Care

Clé Ceramic Subway Tile

MCI 104

NOTE: For all recommended products: read the entire product label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area with a 24-hour cure time to determine ease of application and desired results. Avoid skin and eye contact. Always wear appropriate safety equipment during product use.

NEW INSTALLATION PRE-GROUT TREATMENT

Some ceramic, porcelain, and quarry tiles are porous or have a textured surface which would benefit from sealing prior to grouting.

A simple water test can be performed to identify if the tile is porous. If the tile darkens after applying water to the surface and waiting for 5 minutes the tile is absorbent and applying a sealer prior to grouting may aid in clean up after grouting. Typically, ceramic, porcelain, or quarry tile that does not darken with water has a low absorption rate, so a single application of sealer is sufficient as a pre-grouting treatment. Matte finish or textured porcelain tile may also benefit from the use of a pre-grout treatment.

STONETECH Stone, Tile & Grout Sealer

Pre-Grout Sealer Application

Read entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area with a 24-hour cure time to determine ease of application and desired results. Make sure surface is clean and free of waxes and coatings. STONETECH Stone, Tile & Grout Sealer may be applied to damp surfaces one hour after standing water has been removed. Surface temperature should be between 50°F - 80°F (10°C - 26°C). Ensure that the area is well-ventilated during application and until the surface is dry. Keep children and pets out of the area until treated surface is dry.

1. Ensure cap is closed and sealed, and shake well before use.
2. Mask off surfaces not intended to be treated.
3. Liberally apply an even coat of STONETECH Stone, Tile & Grout Sealer using a paint pad, roller, brush or low-pressure sprayer.
4. Allow sealer to penetrate the surface for 10-15 minutes. During this time, keep the surface wet with sealer, adding more sealer as needed. **DO NOT ALLOW SEALER TO COMPLETELY DRY ON THE SURFACE.**
5. Thoroughly wipe dry the entire surface with clean absorbent towels.
6. A second coat may be needed for porous, absorbent surfaces. If a second coat is required, it should be applied within 30-40 minutes from the initial application as directed in steps 3-5.
7. Allow sealer to cure for 24 hours prior to grouting.
8. Clean tools used during application with water.

Refer to [DS278.0](#) for more information.

SEALING AND PROTECTING:

Ceramic, quarry and porcelain tiles have traditionally been impervious to liquid stains from both oil and water based materials and most do not require sealing. However, there are now porcelain, quarry and ceramic tile that may exhibit porosity and can benefit from sealing. Test the tile for porosity (see the section “New Installation Pre-Grout Treatment” for directions) or consult with the tile manufacturer to determine if sealing is required.

STONETECH® Stone, Tile & Grout Sealer (Applies to tile which will accept a sealer)

Read entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area with a 24-hour cure time to determine ease of application and desired results. Allow new grout installations to cure for a minimum of 72 hours prior to application. Make sure surface is clean and free of waxes and coatings. Sealer may be applied to damp surfaces one hour after standing water has been removed. Surface temperature should be between 50°F - 80°F (10°C - 26°C). Ensure that the area is well-ventilated during application and until the surface is dry. Keep children and pets out of the area until foot traffic resumes.

1. Ensure cap is closed and sealed, and shake well before use.
2. Mask off surfaces not intended to be treated.
3. Liberally apply an even coat of STONETECH Stone, Tile & Grout Sealer using a paint pad, roller, brush or low-pressure sprayer.
4. Allow sealer to penetrate the surface for 10-15 minutes. During this time, keep the surface wet with sealer, adding more sealer as needed. **DO NOT ALLOW SEALER TO COMPLETELY DRY ON THE SURFACE.**
5. Thoroughly wipe dry the entire surface with clean absorbent towels.
6. A second coat may be needed for porous, absorbent surfaces. If a second coat is required, it should be applied within 30-40 minutes from the initial application as directed in steps 3-5.
7. Should a sealer residue appear, rewet the impacted section of the surface with sealer. Agitate the surface with a white nylon scrubbing pad to loosen residue and wipe dry with a clean, absorbent towel.
8. A full cure is achieved in 24-72 hours. Use of the treated surface may resume in 6-8 hours. If use of the surface must resume sooner, cover the treated surface with red rosin paper to protect it until full cure is achieved.
9. Clean tools used during application with water.

Refer to [DS 278](#) for more information. If another STONETECH natural look sealer is used, please follow the instructions stated on the product data sheet or label.

REGULAR MAINTENANCE AND CARE

Routine, daily maintenance of tile surfaces will involve keeping dirt, dust and other soiling from building up. Spills, food and other potential staining materials need to be cleaned up in a reasonable period of time. Regular sweeping and light damp mopping is advisable. For larger installations these processes remain the same; only the scale will change.

Highly alkaline, acidic, ammonia based, abrasive cleaners, or bleach may damage some stone, tile and/or grout surfaces and may also degrade an applied sealer, adversely affecting stain repellency. The use of a gentle cleaner specifically formulated for stone, tile and grout maintenance is the best assurance of not harming the tile, grout or degrading any applied sealers.

Removal of cement grout hazes, stripping topical coatings, acrylic finishes or heavy waxes:

STONETECH® Heavy Duty Coating Stripper

Read entire label before using. Use only as directed. Test in a small inconspicuous area to determine ease of application and desired results. Be sure all surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Ensure work area is well-ventilated during application and until surface is dry. Keep children and pets out of the area until surface use resumes. Avoid contact with surfaces not intended to be treated. Avoid applying in direct sunlight. Should not be used in extreme temperatures. Recommended application temperature range is between 50°F - 90°F (10 °C - 32 °C).

1. SHAKE WELL BEFORE USING. Do not dilute before applying.
2. Wear rubber gloves and eye protection during handling and application to prevent skin and eye contact.
3. Liberally apply an even coat of STONETECH Heavy Duty Coating Stripper over the required area with a paint brush, mop or paint pad. DO NOT APPLY WITH A SPRAYER. Immediately remove STONETECH Heavy Duty Coating Stripper from unintended surfaces with a wet cloth to prevent potential damage to those surfaces.
4. Application time will vary depending on type of coating being removed. Approximate application times are as follows:

Coating Type	Application Dwell Time
Sealer, wax or varnish	30 – 60 minutes
Polyurethane or acrylic	1 to 2 hours
Epoxy Grout Haze	1 to 2 hours

5. Do not let STONETECH Heavy Duty Coating Stripper dry on the surface. If STONETECH Heavy Duty Coating Stripper starts to dry, add additional product to keep surface wet.
6. Agitate surface with a nylon scrub brush or pad after testing a small area first to make sure that brush or pad will not scratch the surface. Surface can be wet with water to enable easier removal of coating.
7. Wipe up residual STONETECH Heavy Duty Coating Stripper with clean, dry cloth or wet mop. A wet/dry vacuum can be used for larger area.

8. Rinse surface well with clean water.

9. More than one application may be required, repeat steps 3 through 8 when necessary. 10. Surface traffic may begin 2 hours after removal of coating.

Refer to [DS235.0](#) for more information.

Maintenance Cleaning

Both routine damp mopping and monthly scrub cleanings of tile surfaces can be accomplished with STONETECH® Stone & Tile Cleaner. Cleaning can be accomplished using a bucket and mop while a wet/dry vacuum is helpful for cleaning big floors. For commercial applications a swing machine fitted with a brush or pad or an auto-scrubber will help maintain larger installations.

For routine cleaning of tile and cement grout with a cleaner:

STONETECH® Stone & Tile Cleaner (Concentrate)

Read entire label before using. Use only as directed. Be sure surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Avoid skin and eye contact with product. Wear protective eyewear and gloves when handling concentrate. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying.

1. Dilute STONETECH Stone & Tile Cleaner (Concentrate) with warm water according to the following mixing chart:

Use	STONETECH® Stone & Tile Cleaner (Concentrate)	Warm Water
Light Duty	1 part	64 parts
Heavy Duty	1 part	32 parts

2. Apply mixed solution with a damp mop, sponge or appropriate professional cleaning equipment.
3. Clean entire area with mop, changing cleaning solution often to ensure that soil is not redeposited. Wipe or rinse cleaned area.
4. Let area dry completely before using.

STONETECH® Stone & Tile Cleaner (Ready-To-Use)

Read entire label before using. Use only as directed. Be sure surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Avoid skin and eye contact with product. Wear protective eyewear and gloves when handling concentrate. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying.

1. Spray or pour directly onto soiled area.
2. Wipe clean with a dry towel, lint free cloth or sponge. No need to rinse.
3. Repeat for heavily soiled areas using a non-abrasive scrubbing pad.

4. Wipe clean with a dry towel.

Refer to [DS211.0](#) for more information.

RESTORATIVE DEEP CLEANING

Stone, tile and grout installations can become heavily soiled over time. Restorative cleaning processes will help return these surfaces to a more acceptable appearance.

The following restorative surface cleaning processes are done in preparation for resealing or for specialized surface cleaning circumstances. These cleaning processes should not damage the surface of the tile or grout. However, these types of heavy-duty cleaning may degrade or strip many sealers from the application.

Depending on the type of soiling or staining, select one of the following options:

For spot or small area deep cleaning:

STONETECH DeepKlenz™ Cleaner

Read entire label before using. Use only as directed. Test in a small inconspicuous area to determine required results. Be sure all surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Avoid skin and eye contact with product. Wear protective eyewear, gloves, long sleeves, and long pants while handling concentrate. Ensure work area is well-ventilated during application and until surface is dry. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying. Recommended application temperature range is between 40°F - 100°F (4°C - 38°C).

1. Thoroughly wet surface by directly spraying onto soiled area.
2. Allow STONETECH® DeepKlenz™ Cleaner to work on the surface for 5-10 minutes. Do NOT allow product to dry on the surface.
3. Lightly scrub with a stiff bristle brush to remove the surface contaminants.
4. Rinse and wipe surface with clean cloth and warm water. Repeat as needed for heavy soiled areas.
5. Reseal cleaned area with STONETECH Stone, Tile & Grout Sealer, if appropriate.

Refer to [DS111.2](#) for more information.

For cleaning and removing soap scum:

STONETECH® Soap Scum Remover

Read entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area to determine ease of use and desired results. Be sure surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Avoid skin and eye contact. Wear protective eyewear and gloves. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying.

1. Spray STONETECH Soap Scum Remover directly on soiled areas. Avoid applying onto unintended surfaces.
2. Wipe surface with clean, dry cloth or scrub with stiff nylon brush as needed.

3. Rinse area well with clean water.
4. Wipe area dry with clean cloth.
5. Repeat as needed for heavily soiled areas.

Refer to [DS229.0](#) for more information.

For oil stain removal:

STONETECH Oil Stain Remover

Read entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area to determine that the desired results will be achieved. Make sure surface is clean, dry, and free of waxes and coatings. Ensure that area is well-ventilated and keep children and pets away from the area during application and until surface is clean and dry.

1. Using a plastic or wood spatula, stir thoroughly to mix the paste.
2. Apply a ¼” (6 mm) thick layer of paste to the stain. Ensure that the paste extends at least 1” - 2” (25 – 50mm) beyond the edge of the stain.
3. Do not cover.
4. Allow 48 – 72 hours for STONETECH® Oil Stain Remover to dry.
5. Using a plastic spatula, remove the dried STONETECH Oil Stain Remover and discard. 6. Allow solvent to completely dry from the stone.
6. If stain is not completely gone after drying, repeat process.
7. Clean up residue and tools with mineral spirits.
8. Once the surface is dry, reseal the cleaned area with STONETECH Sealer, if appropriate.

Refer to [DS 214.0](#) for more information.

For cleaning and removing mold and mildew:

STONETECH Mold & Mildew Stain Remover

Read entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area to determine ease of use and desired results. Be sure surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Avoid skin and eye contact. Wear protective eyewear and gloves. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying. Do not mix this product with other household cleaners or metals.

1. Spray STONETECH Mold & Mildew Stain Remover directly on soiled areas. Avoid applying onto unintended surfaces.
2. Clean surface with non-abrasive sponge or stiff nylon brush as needed.
3. Rinse area well with clean water.

4. Repeat as needed for heavily-soiled areas.

Refer to [DS 219.0](#) for more information.

Removal of efflorescence, mineral deposits, and calcium based staining:

STONETECH® Restore™ Acidic Cleaner

Read entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area to determine required dilution and results. Be sure all surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Heavy duty dilution may darken some surfaces. **This acid-based cleaner will etch or damage most marble, limestone and travertine surfaces. Will etch or corrode most metal surfaces.** Avoid skin and eye contact. Wear protective eyewear, gloves, long sleeves, and long pants while handling product. Ensure work area is well ventilated during application and until surface is dry. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying.

1. Dilute concentrated STONETECH Restore™ Acidic Cleaner with warm water according to the following mixing chart:

Use	STONETECH Restore™ Acidic Cleaner (Concentrate)	Warm Water	pH
Light Duty	1 part	16 parts	1.4
Medium Duty	1 part	4 parts	1.2
Heavy Duty	1 part	1 part	<1

2. Mask off and protect any metals or other surfaces not intended to be treated. Apply mixed solution with a clean mop, or towel.
3. Agitate with a scrub brush or floor machine as needed.
4. Remove STONETECH® Restore™ Acidic Cleaner using a clean cloth, wet/dry vacuum or damp mop.
5. Rinse area well with clean water and wipe dry.
6. Thoroughly rinse all metal surfaces with clean water. Clean and rinse equipment with water.
7. Reseal cleaned area with STONETECH Stone, Tile & Grout Sealer, if appropriate.

Refer to [DS216.0](#) for more information.

For cleaning grease, oil, dirt, dry soil, or to prepare for resealing:

STONETECH® KlenzAll™ Cleaner (Concentrate)

Read entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area to determine ease of use and desired results. Be sure all surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose

debris. Avoid skin and eye contact with product. Wear protective eyewear, gloves, long sleeves, and long pants while handling concentrate. Ensure work area is well-ventilated during application and until surface is dry. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying.

The following is a restorative surface cleaning process which is done in preparation for resealing or for specialized surface cleaning circumstances. This process should not damage the stone surface, however, this type of heavy duty cleaning will degrade or strip many sealers from the application.

1. Dilute concentrated STONETECH® KlenzAll™ Cleaner with warm water according to the following mixing chart:

Use	STONETECH® KlenzAll™ Cleaner (Concentrate)	Warm Water	pH
Light Duty	1 part	8 parts	10.7
Medium Duty	1 part	4 parts	11
Heavy Duty	1 part	2 parts	11.3

2. Apply mixed solution with a mop, clean cloth or low-pressure sprayer. Avoid applying cleaner on unintended surfaces.
3. Lightly scrub with a scrub brush or floor machine as needed.
4. Remove STONETECH® KlenzAll™ Cleaner using a clean cloth, wet/dry vacuum or damp mop.
5. Rinse area well with clean water. Allow area to dry completely.
6. Some surfaces may require additional cleaning. If so, repeat steps 2 – 5 above.
7. Reseal cleaned area with STONETECH Stone, Tile & Grout Sealer, if appropriate.

Refer to [DS215.0](#) for more information.

Maintenance & Care Instructions are subject to change without notice. For latest revision, check our website at www.laticrete.com
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