

# Care and Maintenance Guidelines

## Natural Paving and Flagstone

**PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT:** The timeless beauty and inherent durability of natural stone makes it a favorite surfacing material for designers, architects and homeowners. Because of geological composition, all stones are susceptible to varying degrees of staining and surface wear. To preserve the beauty and durability of natural stone with the proper sealers, cleaners and other products, the following care and maintenance guidelines are recommended. Charles Luck Stone Center recommends and inventories the Aqua Mix® line of stone cleansers, which is available at all Stone Center locations. We advise you to read and follow the manufacturers' directions and consult with your project manager if you have any questions or concerns.

### PRE-GROUT SEALING

**Purpose:**

To protect porous stone from grout staining and make cleaning grout easier.

| Desired Result  | Product Options               | # Coats | Approx. Coverage per/coat per/gal | Cure time Prior to grouting | Interior | Exterior | Notes  |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|--|
| <b>Premium-No Sheen Natural Look</b>                  | Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold | 1       | 400 SF                            | 2 hours                     | Yes      | Yes      | Provides maximum stain protection when a no-sheen, natural look is required. |
| <b>Economical No-Sheen Natural Look</b>               | Aqua Mix Penetrating Sealer   | 1       | 400 SF                            | 2 hours                     | Yes      | Yes      | Provides limited stain protection when a no-sheen, natural look is required. |
| <b>Premium No-Sheen Darkened Color Enhancement</b>    | Aqua Mix Enrich 'N' Seal      | 1       | 500 SF                            | 2 hours                     | Yes      | Yes      | Use only on unsealed stone surfaces. Enhances color of stone.                |
| <b>Economical No-Sheen Darkened Color Enhancement</b> | Aqua Mix Stone Enhancer       | 1       | 500 SF                            | 2 hours                     | Yes      | Yes      | Use only on unsealed stone surfaces. Enhances color of stone.                |

**Procedure:**

- » The product selected for pre-grouting sealing should also be used for sealing.
- » Ensure surface is clean and dry.
- » Always grout and clean a small test area to determine desired results.
- » Apply per product directions.
- » Grout and clean per manufacture's directions ensuring that no grout residue is left on stone surface.
- » Average coverage may vary depending on porosity of stone.
- » Helpful tip: Add Aqua Mix Grout Haze Clean-Up to last bucket of clean water used in grout clean-up. This will facilitate removal of remaining grout residue.

**These recommendations are intended as general guidelines. Always read directions and test first.**

**Aqua Mix Technical Assistance:**

- » Call 877.278.2311 Monday through Friday, 6:00 am to 4:30 pm or Saturday 7:00 am to 12:00 pm Pacific time.
- » Visit website at [www.aquamix.com](http://www.aquamix.com)
- » E-mail technical questions to [tech@aquamix.net](mailto:tech@aquamix.net)

### SEALING

#### Purpose:

Protect stone from sub-surface staining and ease routine maintenance.

| Desired Result  | Product Options               | # Coats | Approx. Coverage Per/coat per/gal | Grout Cure Time Prior to Sealing | Expected Wear  | Interior | Exterior | Notes  |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|--|
| <b>Premium No-Sheen Natural Look</b>                  | Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold | 2       | 400-600 SF                        | 48 hours                         | Up to 15 Years | Yes      | Yes      | Maximum stain protection when a no-sheen, natural look is required   |
| <b>Economical No-Sheen Natural Look</b>               | Aqua Mix Penetrating Sealer   | 2       | 400-600 SF                        | 48 hours                         | Up to 5 Years  | Yes      | Yes      | Provides limited stain protection when a no-sheen, natural look is required                                  |
| <b>Premium No-Sheen Darkened Color Enhancement</b>    | Aqua Mix Enrich 'N' Seal      | 1-2     | 600-800 SF                        | 48 hours                         | Up to 15 Years | Yes      | Yes      | Use only on unsealed stone or stone with this product applied as pre-grout. Seals the surface as it darkens. |
| <b>Economical No-Sheen Darkened Color Enhancement</b> | Aqua Mix Stone Enhancer       | 1-2     | 600 -800 SF                       | 48 hours                         | Up to 5 Years  | Yes      | Yes      | Use only on unsealed stone or stone with this product applied as pre-grout. Seals the surface as it darkens. |

#### Procedure:

- » Ensure surface is clean and dry.
- » Apply per product directions.
- » Ready for surface traffic 2 hours after final sealer application. Keep area dry for 12 hours.

#### Architectural Specification:

- » In each part of the CSI format specification for the stone installation, the following is recommended:
- » In Part 1: Submittals – Submit copy of the Manufactures literature for the selected Aqua Mix products(s) from the above chart including a Material Safety Data Sheet and Product Label.
- » In Part 2: Material Selection – Include Aqua Mix product(s) from the chart above.
- » In Part 3: After the cleaning section add a section for sealing. Apply product from chart above according to label instructions and handle product according to the Material Safety Data Sheet.

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### MAINTENANCE

**Purpose:**

To safely maintain a clean stone and grout surface and to preserve the stone’s natural beauty and integrity.

For years people have believed that pressure washing was the best method for cleaning stone. High pressure damages the surface of the stone and is often unnecessary. Each time a stone surface is pressure washed, a layer of the stone material is removed. Using the proper products will safely and effectively clean the stone without damaging the surface of the material.

| Type of Maintenance                        | Product Options                   | Dilution Ratio   | Expected Coverage Per Gallon | Notes   |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| Routine                                    | Concentrated Stone & Tile Cleaner | 1-4 oz./gallon water   | 10,000 – 20,000 SF           | Highly concentrated. Neutral pH. Safe for regular use |
| Periodic Heavy-Duty                        | Stone Deep Clean                  | Add up to 4 parts water                                      | 500 – 600 SF                 | Contains no acid. Safe on stone and grout/mortar      |
| Antibacterial/Disinfectant                 | Antibacterial Cleaner             | Use undiluted  | N/A                          | Quick spray-and-wipe cleaner & disinfectant           |
| Periodic Heavy-Duty Large Commercial Areas | 1&2 Deep Clean                    | 1/4 – 1/2 cup of powder and liquid to 2 1/2 gallons of water | 8,000 – 32,000 SF            | Recommended for large commercial floor applications   |

**Procedure:**

- » Sweep, dust mop or vacuum surface.
- » Mix and apply per product directions. Use a soft bristle brush when scrubbing the surface of natural stone products. Do not use a hard bristle or wire brush as it will scratch the surface of the stone.

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