



Milestone Cleaning and Maintenance Instructions

General

Milestone is a cement based product and as such does not need to be sealed. Unsealed Milestone will darken every time it gets wet and lighten again as it dries. It will also patina, changing its appearance gradually over time based on whatever substances have come in contact with it. Since most of our customers want the original appearance of their installation preserved, we seal almost all of our work. The types of sealers will vary depending on the application and the environment they are used in but some general maintenance rules apply to all of them. Make sure to also read the instructions for your specific type of installation. The following guidelines are general, and there are exceptions to every rule. Please call us for any additional information or guidance you may need. Taking a few precautions, and following a regular maintenance schedule will keep your finish looking its best for years to come.

Cleaning

When cleaning, a damp cloth is capable of picking up microscopic abrasive particles and potential staining agents. Damp wiping when necessary is recommended.

Don't use:

- solvents
- harsh chemical cleaning agents
- abrasive cleaning pads

Do use

- water
- mild soaps
- non-abrasive cleaning pads

Any spills or other contaminations should be cleaned up as soon as possible. Prolonged exposure increases the risk of permanent staining.

Maintenance

On most of our installations (floors being the main exception) we will apply our Milestone Cementic Canuba wax as the final sealer. Aside from creating a soft, organic sheen, the wax acts as a maintenance coat. It provides some amount of protection for the underlying sealers and it can be re-buffed or re-applied whenever necessary.

Repair

Milestone can be damaged but it can also be repaired. Chips, dents and stains can all be restored to their previous appearance. Some sealers may require a larger surrounding area to be resealed in order to have uniform sheen. Cracks are usually not related to Milestone but to movement in the substrate and need to be addressed on that level. It usually requires the attention of a professional to restore damaged Milestone surfaces.

Counter tops

Milestone counters are usually sealed to prevent staining. Since one of the appeals of Milestone is it's organic look, we are staying away from sealers that create a plastic or resin look. We have developed a combination of water-based sealers that help protect against staining from all the substances commonly found in the kitchen and bath, including vinegar, oil, lemon and most cosmetic products. A couple of things need to be considered, though:

Any spills or other contaminations should be cleaned up as soon as possible. Prolonged exposure increases the risk of permanent staining.

Even concrete would be affected if you set a pot straight off the flame or out of the oven onto it and our sealers are certainly not designed to withstand that kind of treatment.

For the same reason you can not use your Milestone counter as a cutting block. Knife cuts would penetrate the sealers, eventually allowing moisture to migrate into the cement and potentially creating stains.

Regular use of a cutting board or equivalent will deal with both of these issues.

Showers

All of the general rules apply to showers. In addition, the use of a squeegee after each use of the shower is strongly recommended. Squeegeeing the water of the walls will prevent the build-up of soap film.

Note: Hair dye requires immediate clean-up, if left on in concentrated form it will create permanent stains in a couple of hours.

Interior walls, Fireplace surrounds

All of the general rules apply.

Floors, decks and patios

We usually use commercial sealers for this type of installation. You should therefore follow the respective manufacturers recommendations for maintenance and cleaning.