



*Your natural stone, like any other part of your garden or home, requires some periodic maintenance to keep it in tip top condition, however this need not be time consuming or expensive. We have put together this guide to give you all the information you need to know.*

**PLEASE NOTE:- The following is a guide only. The iron and mineral content of natural stone can vary and therefore all chemicals must be tested on a small, inconspicuous area prior to full treatment. Always seek professional advice before applying any product to your natural stone.**

London Stone strongly recommend that Buff Sawn Sandstone is sealed with DRY TREAT 'STAIN PROOF' prior to installation. This will help to protect against staining during the installation process, offer some protection against efflorescence, and help to make the general maintenance of the stone much easier. For best results, sealing work should be carried out by a trained technician. Please let us know if you would like further information or a quotation for our pre-sealing service so that your stone can be delivered to site sealed by an expert and ready to install.

*Please note:- Sealing the stone will not prevent marks from appearing, it will simply make it much easier to clean in comparison to unsealed stone. A jet-wash and possibly cleaning agents will still be required in order to clean the stone. See the document 'Important Information about Sealant' for further information.*

If you are sealing your stone after installation, you will need to wait for around 5 weeks after installation before you attempt to apply the sealant. This will give some time for any efflorescence to become apparent so that you can deal with it before you apply the sealant. Efflorescence is more likely to occur within the first few weeks, however it can appear at any time. Sealant should not be applied to stone which is showing signs of efflorescence.

When sealing stone which is already installed, it is imperative that you only do so when the stone is clean and completely dry. Sealing stone which is already laid should not be carried out during the winter months as the climate is too cold and damp and the sealant will fail. Although the stone may appear dry on the surface during the winter, it is very likely to be damp underneath as moisture is drawn up through the stone from the ground. You must be sure that the stone is bone dry, all the way through, before attempting to seal outdoors. This will mean waiting for a period of warm, dry weather.

It is advisable to purchase a small quantity of additional sealant in order to seal the pointing material after installation is complete. This can be done with a small paintbrush.

Brush the stone regularly with a stiff brush to remove any dried mud or dirt and prevent the accumulation of detritus in the joints. Leaves and other organic matter can leave a mark if allowed to decompose on the surface of the stone so it is important to ensure that any falling leaves are brushed away regularly.

Clean the stone as and when required (usually once or twice per year) with LITHOFIN 'OUTDOOR CLEANER'. This is a general cleaning agent and will also help to remove algae, light cement stains, organic stains, light efflorescence, picture framing and many other stains and marks. Always test cleaning products on a small area prior to full application. Before cleaning, sweep the stone to remove any loose dirt or detritus which could act as an abrasive agent when moved around the surface of the stone by the water jet. Then, following the instructions on the bottle, spray the product onto the stone, leave for up to 4 hours and then rinse clean with a jet-wash. This process may need to be repeated for stubborn marks. When using the jet-wash, be sure to select a medium pressure and hold the nozzle at least 500mm away from the surface of the stone in order to prevent the water jet from etching it.

For stubborn cement residue, a product called LITHOFIN 'BUILDERS CLEAN' can be used. As always, test the product on a small area prior to full application. Dilute the product as per the instructions on the bottle, apply evenly to the surface of the stone and scrub with a stiff deck brush, then rinse clean with a jet-wash. This process may need to be repeated for stubborn marks. When using the jet-wash, be sure to select a medium pressure and hold the nozzle at least 500mm away from the surface of the stone in order to prevent the water jet from etching it.

*Please note:- Take care during the installation process to clean any cement or mortar off the stone as you go. Cement can become lodged in the pores of the stone and, if allowed to go off, can be incredibly difficult to remove even with the use of cleaning products.*

