



# PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF NATURAL STONES

Natural stones are materials extracted from nature and used inside and outside of buildings, floors, and surfaces such as walls, bathrooms, tables, and coffee tables. Natural stones are classified into two general categories according to their composition: Calcareous stones and silica/quartz-based stones. Calcareous stones are marble, travertine, and limestone. Silica/quartz-based stones are granite, slate, quartz, and terracotta.

Natural stones are used for aesthetic and decorative purposes in buildings. They are investments that can be used for many years when they are properly maintained. They last a lifetime without any deterioration when the recommended basic maintenance operations are applied and proper cleaning products and methods are used. The formation of natural stones takes millions of years, but their natural beauty can deteriorate rapidly unless their maintenance and cleaning are done correctly.

The protection and daily cleaning of natural stones should be prioritized so that they can be used for a long time with their natural beauty. It is important to prevent and remove dust and sand from natural stones. As sand is very hard, it scratches even the hardest natural stones. Floors should be protected with doormats against sand carried inside through feet. In daily cleaning, they should be wiped with mop systems or cleaning automats and very high alkaline or acid products should not be used. Soap-based and anti-static products that prevent dust are also suitable as daily maintenance products for natural stones.

There are also some procedures for the protection of natural stone surfaces as well as daily maintenance. Since stone surfaces are generally porous and liquid-permeable, they absorb the liquid and get stained if the pores are not properly filled or coated. It is almost impossible to remove stains from the pores and clean them. Application of a coating agent suitable for natural stones provides the surface with hydrophobic (water repellent) and lipophobic (oil repellent) protection against water and oil-based stains. Natural Stone Protection Products, which serve this purpose, prevent stains and absorption of liquids on the coated surface. Natural Stone Protection Product is applied by spraying or wiping it on the surface. It does not discolor the stone, so it does not change its natural appearance. After application, the surface is extremely resistant to mechanical effects and chemicals. The protection effect continues for a long time depending on the place of use and can be repeated every 1-6 months depending on the usage.

## Natural stones and their features:

**Marble:** It is the most commonly used building material. It is used on floors, walls, bathroom and sanitary areas, table-counter tops. In general, it is softer and easier to scratch compared to other natural stones. It is affected by acid products; the surface is damaged.

Since marble surfaces are porous, they quickly absorb the oil and liquids and dirt fills into its pores. Polish is applied in order to protect from contamination and scratching, to obtain glossy look, and to facilitate daily maintenance. Polish or crystallization is applied in indoor areas. Only crystallized polish can be applied in outdoor areas, as the emulsion polish is not water resistant. It is important to cover the surface with Natural Stone Protection Products to protect the marble against water and other stains in areas where polish cannot be applied such as countertops, marble sinks, bathrooms. However, the protection product does not protect the marble against acid products and marble surfaces should always be protected against acid products. However, when acid is accidentally spilled on the surface, it should be quickly wiped off, preventing damage to the surface before absorption.

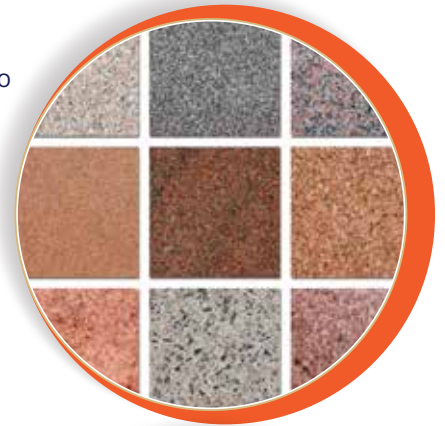


**Travertine:** Travertine is another calcium carbonate-based natural stone. It is formed by the crystallization of calcium carbonate especially where hot spring water reaches the surface and the structure is porous because of the gases coming out. It is used as floor or wall covering material. Although it is naturally white in color, it can be yellow-brown due to its impurities. Since the surface is porous, a flat surface can be obtained by filling the pores with polish. It can be protected against oil and stains with a protective film and natural stone maintenance products that make the surface hydrophobic-lipophobic against liquid permeability. However, the coating does not protect against acid products just like marble. However, surface damage can be prevented by wiping off the acid product quickly as it will not be absorbed quickly.



**Granite:** Granite is extremely hard and non-porous, so it is very resistant to contamination and scratching. Its hardness is close to diamond which is the hardest mineral. It is not affected by acids and alkalis. It is easy to clean and maintain. Although it is a hard surface, sand particles can also scratch granite. Doormats and dust mops should be used for cleaning the sand and dust.

It is cleaned daily with neutral and quick-drying daily cleaning products. It is impossible to remove scratches. From time to time, it can be cleaned with alkaline oil-dirt cleansing products in order to clean the dirt filled in scratches. Granite is naturally shiny, and polish is never applied.



**Quartz:** It is a very hard and very durable mineral most frequently found in nature. It can be in various colors with different mineral contents. Surface coating material is obtained by blending the ground powders of quartz mineral to each other with the polymer resin. The most commonly used is the one commercially called Cimstone. It is used in indoor and outdoor floors, bathrooms, kitchens, and counters. It is very resistant to mechanics and chemicals. It is only sensitive to acid contained in rust solvents.

Its cleaning and maintenance are very easy. It is shiny and does not need polish. Protection from sand extends its life. Quartz surfaces can be cleaned with general cleaning products in daily cleaning.

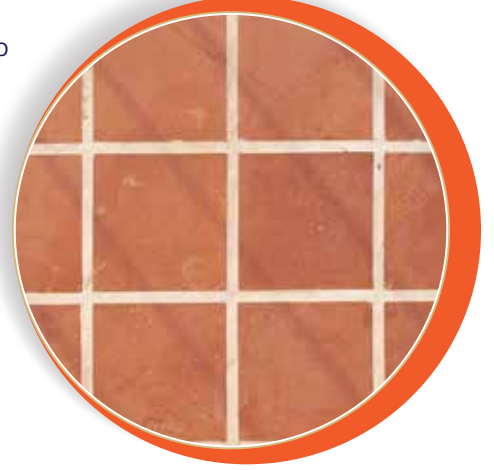


**Slate:** It is a natural stone usually in dark gray, leaden colors. It can also be in brown, yellow, and pink. It is usually used as outdoor floor and wall covering material. It is non-slip, durable and resistant to chemicals and mechanical effects. It is protected against contamination and staining with the use of Natural Stone Protective Product to reduce the permeability of liquids through pores.

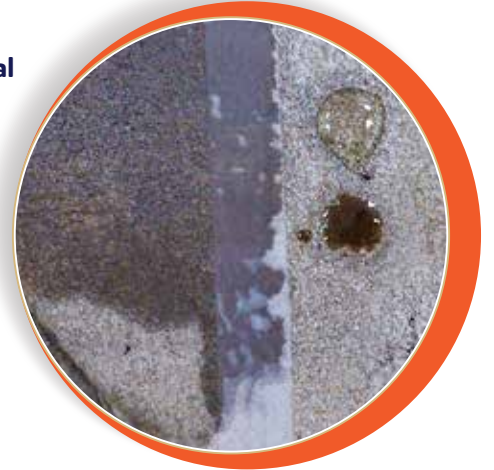


**Terracotta:** It is a red-brown natural stone material. It is porous, permeable to water and other liquids. It is resistant to chemicals and mechanical effects. In terracotta surfaces, the most common problem is the whitening of the surface as a result of the evaporation of water when the water inside pores goes upward. This whiteness can be cleaned with acid products, but the problem occurs again with the use of excess water. Therefore, stones with whitening are cleaned with acidic products and very little water, and the water is immediately taken out by vacuum. Cement should not be used as an adhesive and a special adhesive should be used to prevent the problem.

Terracotta surfaces can be cleaned with neutral-acid-alkaline products. Emulsion varnish can be applied indoors. However, in order to prevent the liquid permeability of the pores in outdoor areas, the surface should be covered with Natural Stone Protection Product.



**Eczacıbaşı Profesyonel ensures the protection and maintenance of natural stones with Maratem products, keeping floors and surfaces clean for a long time. M217 Natural Stone Conditioner and Care Product creates a protective layer on surfaces and prevents water and greasy dirt from entering the pores. In everyday cleaning, M233 Shiny Surfaces Cleaner and Maintainer provides a glossy look without leaving water marks on the floors and surfaces with its quick drying effect and leaves a beautiful scent. Eczacıbaşı Profesyonel contributes to the selection of the right products and methods in the field of cleaning and protection of surfaces by offering solutions to businesses in the field of education, audit, and consultancy with the EP Akademi unit, which provides training to more than 6,000 sector employees in a year.**



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