

# Glossary

**Abrasion Resistance**- The ability to resist the process of wearing down or rubbing away by means of friction.

**Abrasive**- A substance used to sand, scour, scrub, smooth or polish by removal of the original material. The amount of material removed is determined by the size of the abrasive particles used (ie: grit) Sandpaper, scouring powders & steel wool are examples of abrasives.

**Abrasive Process** - Abrasive processes developed specifically for cleaning all types of natural stone. Custom abrasive processes are used for finishing Travertine, Marble and Limestone, as well as all the standard methods available in the world for finishing stone.

**Absorption**- The act or process of absorbing or the condition of being absorbed

**Acid Cleaners** - Acidic washing agents are mainly used for removal of inorganic deposits like scaling. The active ingredients are normally strong mineral acids and chelants. Often, there are added surfactants and corrosion inhibitors. A cleaning agent with a pH under 6.5

**Acid Wash**- A process used to remove mineral build-up from non-calcium based surfaces. Also, a treatment that can be applied the face of the stone to provide a texture or distressed finish.

**Acidic Spills** - Will cause etching on the stone surface resulting in a dull spot. Acids dissolve tiny particles of stone.

**Acrylics**- Film forming resins resulting from the polymerization of derivatives of acrylic acids. They are typically carried through water based or solvent based solutions.

**Aggregate**- An inert granular material such as natural sand, manufactured sand, gravel, crushed gravel, crushed stone, vermiculite, perlite, and air-cooled blast-furnace slag, which when bound together into a conglomerate mass by a matrix forms concrete or mortar.

**Alkaline Cleaners** - Alkaline washing agents contain strong bases like sodium hydroxide and/or potassium hydroxide. The alkali dissolves grease, oils, fats, and protein-based deposits. A cleaning agent with a pH above 8.5.

**Black Granite**- Dark Colored igneous rocks quarried as building stone, facings, specialty purposes and identified as Black granite or Black absolute when sold. Black granites are similar to true granites in structure and texture, but are composed of different minerals.

**Calcareous**- Stones bearing calcium.

**Calcite**- Crystalline form of calcium carbonate, CaCO<sub>3</sub>. The main mineral found in most limestones and geological marbles.

**Coating** - Any sort of topcoat sealer, including enhancers that are over applied, causing a buildup on the surface.

**Cement Based Grout** - This type of grout can either be sanded or non-sanded. Both varieties are absorbent and acid-sensitive. Often cement-based grout is polymer modified to prevent or minimize cracking and add strength.

**Dolomite**- Mineral, calcium magnesium carbonate, CaMg (CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. It is commonly crystalline and is white, gray, brown, or reddish in color with a vitreous to pearly luster. The magnesium is sometimes replaced in part by iron or manganese.

**Efflorescence**- A deposit or crust of soluble salts, commonly white, deposited on the surface of stone, brick, plaster, or mortar; usually caused by free alkalies leached from masonry or adjacent concrete as moisture transmission occurs.

**Enhancer Sealers** - Designed to penetrate and change the stone appearance to a darker, or "wet" look. Over-applied, this type of sealer can result in an undesired coating that will need to be removed.

**Epoxy Based Grout** - Epoxy grout is impervious to liquids and does not need sealing. It will not allow bacteria to grow and it minimizes cracking. It is generally used with ceramic, porcelain and quarry tile and not with natural stone.

**Etching** - When an acidic solution comes in contact with the stone, a dull spot is the result. The acid "eats" the stone leaving dullness, or etching behind. Penetrating sealers help to reduce severity of etches, but cannot eliminate them. Depending on acidity, some liquids can etch immediately, such as wine, where milder acidic solutions may not etch with proper penetrating sealing.

**Floor Machine (Swing machine)** - A floor buffer is an electrical appliance that is used to clean and maintain non-carpeted floors, such as hardwood, marble, tile or porcelain/ceramic tile. Often times equip with a water tank for natural stone grinding, honing and polishing. Typical set-up for stone restoration is 175 RPM, 1.5 horsepower with water tank and weight adding capabilities. It is also known as a floor polisher, swing machine or burnisher if it is a high speed floor buffer with a pad that rotates at over 1000 RPM.

**Deep scratches or gauges** - Any scratch white in color implies a deep scratch that cannot be buffed out using our standard abrasive procedure. Heavy grits, such as a diamond disc, would be needed to remove enough stone layers to even out the scratch. Replacement of the affected stone is often the best option.

**Grinding** - Utilizing the toughest abrasives to sand away a measurable amount of stone. This step would be used to even out high tiles present with floors are installed with Lippage. Sometimes this step is also used to sand away a coating on the stone provided the installation is even.

**Grit** - Abrasive particle or granule used in natural stone restoration for the grinding, honing and polishing process. Typically a diamond, tin or aluminum oxide, the grit is represented by a number on the back of the pad or on the label. Smaller numbers represent a larger grit resulting in a more aggressive result, while larger numbers represent a smaller grit resulting in a honed or polished finish.

**Grout Caulk** - Latex material used to repair or fill in grout joints. Comes in both sanded and un-sanded to match the grout that is being repaired. Also comes in different colors to match the variety of grout colors available.

**Grout Color Sealing** - The best way to seal grout because it coats the grout and makes it far less absorbent. This makes the grout look new and helps prevent most staining as well as providing the grout with complete uniformity. Color sealers are designed to match original grout color or to change the color when desired.

**High Gloss Polish** - The shiniest finish possible using abrasives and/or polishing compounds without the use of coatings. The quality of the stones will be a factor in the overall outcome.

**Hog's Hair Buffing Pad** - Pad used during most restoration project under floor machine or hand-held grinder. This versatile pad can be used for cleaning, honing, polishing or buffing surface haze. They contain synthetic "hog's hair" to provide abrasion and friction. Also known as, Horse Hair, Natural Hair or Puerco Pads

**Hone/Honing** - Webster says: "the process of sharpening something", such as a tool or skills. In the stone finishing industry, honing has as many different meanings as there are stone finishers honing stone. The finisher may refer to it as a procedure while a tile retailer may refer to it as a look or shine of the stone.

**Hone Finish**- A smooth surface with little or no reflectivity. Desirable on floors with heavy traffic where constant abrasion can wear down a polish or finish. Can be considered the "factory finish" for most Travertine and Limestone. Usually the finish before the polishing step.

**Honing Powders** - Abrasive powder used to eliminate scratches and restore uniform or lustrous finishes to natural stone surfaces. They are most effective on softer surfaces such as travertine, limestone and some marbles. Typically used in place of resin diamond pads when excessive lippage is present.

**Impregrator**- An impregnating sealer which is a chemical composed of two parts; a solid and a carrier. Designed to penetrate past the surface tension of the stone to reduce its natural absorbency rate.

**Lamb's Wool Applicator**- Applicator pad sued to spread penetrating sealers and coating comprised of actual lamb's wool. Similar pads made with synthetic fibers are commonly used for the same result at a lower cost.

**Lippage** - Uneven edges from tile to tile when one tile sits higher than the one(s) adjacent to it. An acceptable amount of lippage should be up to the thickness of a dime or credit card. The possibility of lippage should be discussed between homeowner and installer before starting the project. Stone floors can be ground (see "grinding") but is not the recommended solution. Grinding can cause permanent changes that may be considered unacceptable.

**Medium Polish** - A custom finish that is definitely a shine, but has no defined stopping point. The shine level can be adjusted to be less or more shiny depending on homeowner taste.

**Metal Bond Diamond** - Diamond restoration disc in which the diamonds are embedded in a metal matrix. These diamonds are categorized by grits and are typically used to grind out deep gauges or flatten a floor installed with lippage.

**Mohs Scale of Hardness**- characterizes the scratch resistance of various minerals through the ability of a harder material to scratch a softer material. A mineral with a higher Mohs value can scratch an item with a lower Mohs value. A lower numbered mineral cannot scratch a higher numbered one:

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Talc                   | 2. Gypsum             |
| 3. Calcite (most Marbles) | 4. Fluorite           |
| 5. Apatite                | 6. Feldspar (granite) |
| 7. Quartz (granite)       | 8. Topaz              |
| 9. Corundum               | 10. Diamond           |

**Natural Stone**- A term used to describe a true stone from a manufactured material such a ceramic or porcelain.

**Neutral Cleaner** - Neutral washing agents are pH-neutral and based on non-ionic surfactants that disperse different types of dirt. A cleaning agent with a pH of 7.

**Negative Edge**- When a natural stone or engineered tile has been installed lower in relation to the three surrounding tiles. Penetrating or Impregnating Sealers - Designed to penetrate the pores of the stone and prevent liquids from soaking into the stone. Helpful in keeping liquids out and lessen the severity of etching, but will not prevent etching. This type of sealer will not alter the appearance of the stone in any way if applied properly.

**Permeability**- The ability of which a substance will allow for moisture vapor transmission. pH Scale- measures how acidic or alkaline a substance is. The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14. A pH of 7 is neutral. A pH less than 7 is acidic. A pH greater than 7 is alkaline.

**Polish** - Using abrasives to make the stone surface so smooth that it reflects light that results in a clear shine emphasizing the colors and markings of the stone.

**Polyester Resin**- A flexible, thermal setting resin formed by the polymerization process using an accelerator compound. Used as an adhesive or to repair cracks or fill holes in natural stone surfaces.

**Porosity**- The amount of pore space in the total volume of a surface expressed as a ratio or percentage. The higher the percentage the more absorbent the material is and the lower the percentage the more dense it is.

**Portable Extractors** - Similar to a truck-mounted machine except the machine is powered by electricity and can be brought into the work area instead of being mounted to a truck. Systems are typically more affordable while providing similar results. Most portables extractors require two separate electrical circuits to provide sufficient power. Resin Bond Diamond Pad - Diamond restoration disc in which the diamonds are embedded in a resin matrix. These diamonds are categorized by grits and are used for multiple purposes from scratch removal, honing and polishing.

**Satin Finish** - A low luster glow for Travertine, Limestone or Marble. Reflections from overhead lighting and outside light sources are a soft glow. This finish provides a clean even sheen.

**Topcoat Sealers** - Designed to lay on top of the stone and change appearance ranging from a low to high shine; prevents liquids from soaking into the stone. This type of sealer is prone to scratching, dulling and peeling. Regular maintenance is required to keep the sealer intact and looking good.

**Truck-Mounted Machine** - High pressure water and vacuum system designed to apply and remove a large amount of hot water rapidly and efficiently. Originally used as a carpet cleaning machine, they have been adapted for stone & tile cleaning. Used as a highly and much more effective replacement for mop buckets and shop vacs.

**Tumbled Stone**- A rustic look most commonly found on Travertine. Stones are mostly unfilled and look is achieved by processing them in a tumbler.