MAINTENANCE Natural Stone Finishes

## 8.0 MAINTENANCE

Natural stone flooring offers a luxurious boost of elegance and beauty. To keep the floor at its best, proper care and maintenance are essential to prevent stains, cracks and scratches. Sweeping and mopping on a regular basis will help to remove dust, dirt and grit that may harm the stone surface. Placing mats or rugs at the entrance can also help to minimise dirt and grit but caution should be taken on the use of rubber or jute-backed mats/rugs as they themselves may stain the stone surface.

For wet mopping, clean water and neutral (pH7) cleaner should be used. At the end of the process, wipe the surface thoroughly with water to remove all traces of the cleaner solution and buff to dry as water may leave etch spots if left to dry by itself.

Refrain from sliding or dragging heavy furniture such as tables and chairs as they can cause scratches to the stones. Use of protectors on the bottoms of furniture or other heavy objects helps to minimise scratches. Avoid using vacuum cleaners as it can also cause damage to the stones.

Spills such as oily food, coffee, vinegar, ink, etc. should be removed quickly to prevent any staining of the stone surface. It is recommended to use an absorbent material to blot the spill instead of wiping. By doing so, the spill will not be spread. Follow up by flushing the area with water, rinse it for several times as needed and buff to dry to prevent water marks on the stone surface.

Surface stains can be removed with an appropriate cleaning product. When in doubt, it is recommended to seek advice from the stone suppliers or specialists.