

CANCOS  
TILE & STONE

# CARE & MAINTENANCE FOR NATURAL STONE

*How to Properly Clean Your Stone Tile*



## *During & Immediately After Installation*

Natural Stone flooring is one of the first items installed on a construction site, leaving many other trades working on top of your brand new installation. To keep your floor in stellar condition, be diligent in keeping dirt and debris off your newly installed natural stone floor. Not only can this dirt harm the surface of your stone, it can also harm the “drying/curing” of your grout as well as cause hazardous slippery conditions.

Be sure to prohibit traffic for at least 72 hours after installation before attempting to clean your floor.

### **WE RECOMMEND THESE STEPS:**

- First, sweep your floor clean of any construction dust and grit. This might require more than one sweeping. Some textured stones will require two or more sweepings.
- After sweeping, mop with a rayon or sponge mop (cotton mops can give off oils that can harm some stones) with clean water.
- Change bucket frequently, preferably, every 70-100 sq. feet to keep construction soot from spreading.



## *After Installation*

After initial post-construction cleaning, Cancos recommends using any PH balanced stone cleaner, preferably our **FILA STONECLEAN - Natural Stone Neutral Cleaner**; this is a concentrated cleaner and no rinsing is required. Please follow directions on the bottle.

- Always test any cleaner in a small inconspicuous area before using on an entire floor.
- Again, change the mop solution frequently, desirably, every 100-150 s/f.
- Be sure to remove any setting material, grout residue and/or any other construction residue from the surface.

The **FILA STONECLEAN - Natural Stone Neutral Cleaner** gives instructions for different levels of intensive cleaning and spot removal instructions if needed.

Our instructions do not replace nor supersede the manufacturers recommended curing/care instructions. Please make sure to consult your grout manufacturers' cleaning/curing time recommendations before attempting to clean floor with any detergents. Too much water too soon after installation can harm and/or discolor grout.

## GROUT HAZE

Also known as efflorescence, Grout Haze is a very common white film. It's a chalk-like dusting that settles on the floor after installation. Efflorescence is a byproduct of cement products (grouts and thin sets). As products dry, salt minerals combine with water and escape to the surface through the grout joints. The efflorescence and/or grout haze are the salts left behind after the water evaporates. In most cases, this haze can be removed with clean water and drying.



- It is important that you work in a small area.
- Moisten, don't drench the area.
- Immediately dry the area with force using either a terry cloth towel or paper towel.
- Clean water frequently or you will just redistribute the salt minerals. This process may need to be repeated more than once.

If repeated cleanings do not clear the problem, contact a local Cancos branch for a stronger professional cleaner. Depending on the type of flooring involved (porcelain, stone or other), we can recommend the appropriate cleaner.

## *Sealing & Protecting Your Installation*

Use **FILA MP90 - Penetrating Sealer** for maximum stain protection against all oil and water based spills. This sealer can be used on most natural stones including, granite, marble, limestone, travertine, slate and even sanded grouts. Extra porous stones like slate, limestone, travertine and pavers should use the heavier sealer, **FILA FOB - Ultimate Porous Stone Sealer**. Both sealers protection lasts for years, yet they allow the stones to breathe and release moisture vapors. These sealers will not discolor any stone surface and can be used for interior and exterior applications. Depending on your area, wear and maintenance schedule (ie: granite countertops), it may be necessary to reapply sealer once a year for maximum protection. If water bubbles up on top of your surface, you know you have reached maximum protection.

After this initial cleaning, be sure to verify that construction stains and grout haze are removed; proceed to seal your stone with **FILA MP90 - Penetrating Sealer**

- Always test any stone product in a small inconspicuous area before using on entire job/floor. If different manufacturers' brand cleaners and sealers

are used together, they may/may not interact in the same ways.

- In the first application, apply sealer liberally and use pressure to “rub in” sealer in a circular motion using a clean dry terry cloth towel.
- If this application absorbs very quickly, reapply in the same manner and wipe off any excess sealer. Sealer will remain as a liquid on surface if fully sealed.
- Be sure to wipe up an excess sealer off of the surface.

## *Proper Care During Construction*

You have cleaned and sealed your new stone floor. However, your construction is not complete and more tradesmen need to work. Cancos recommends using brown paper or Kraft paper as your protection. This paper will help protect your new floor from debris during the remaining construction process.

### THE PAPER WILL ALLOW FOR TWO IMPORTANT THINGS:



- Protecting your newly installed stone.
- Allowing moisture to escape from the grout as it cures, further protecting the look and utility of the floor. This is an important step in achieving grout color consistency. For added protection,

Cancos Recommends 19/20 mm thick untreated plywood on top of the kraft paper or furniture delivery mats.

The protective brown paper should remain until construction is complete.

- Replace paper sections if noticeable tears or damage is apparent.
- Take care of swept clean affected area and reapply.
- Be sure not to “trap” debris under paper because that can “grind” dirt into new floor and cause scratches in the surface of your stone.

Never use plastic or non-absorbent materials to protect freshly installed tile or stone. These types of non-absorbent products will trap moisture and can cause the grout and/or stone to discolor during the curing period.

## *Daily Maintenance*

The construction phase is now over and daily or routine cleaning of your natural stone can begin. Depending on your wear, we recommend daily to weekly sweeping with a soft bristle broom, followed by a damp mopping with a neutral cleaner, like our **FILA STONECLEAN - Natural**



**Stone Neutral Cleaner.** This is an concentrated PH balanced cleaner and requires no rinsing. If you are not using our **FILA STONECLEAN - Natural Stone Neutral Cleaner**, make sure you are using a cleaner that is PH balanced. Other cleaners can permanently harm, discolor, or etch a natural stones color and/or finish. Cancos recommends water steamers on polished stoned floors.

Always test any cleaner in a small inconspicuous area before

using on an entire floor, changing the mop solution every 100-150 square feet. These instructions do not replace nor supersede any special manufacturers recommended cleaning instructions. If needed, instructions for different levels of intensive cleaning and spot removal are located on the side of the bottle.

## *Heavy Duty Maintenance*

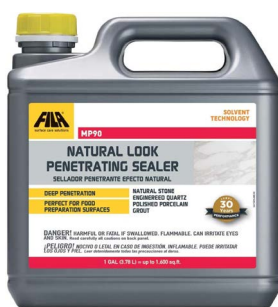
Neglected or heavily trafficked tile may require more intensive cleaning. This can be done by increasing the ratio of water to **FILA STONECLEAN - Natural Stone Neutral Cleaner** and “setting” time of the solution on the floor. Repolishing and resealing may be necessary more frequently.

## *Cleaning Products*

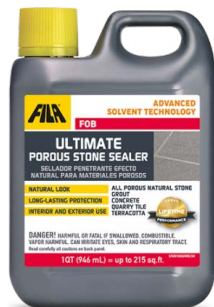
### FILA STONECLEAN



### FILA MP90



### FILA FOB



FOR MORE SPECIFIC CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS,  
PLEASE SEE ANY SALES ASSOCIATE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH  
OR CALL 1-800-3-CANCOS FOR ASSISTANCE.







\*Photo courtesy of Jamie Morgan @ Blake & Dane Designs

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