

Company History

Born and bred in America's heartland, Kansas-based PROSOCO pioneered the first cleaners specifically for new brick construction. Replacing dangerous, inefficient muriatic acid, PROSOCO products set professional cleaning standards still unsurpassed.

The construction industry also called on PROSOCO to develop products for restoration cleaning. Restoration demands cleaners that strip away decades of embedded grime, without harming sensitive stone, tile and masonry.



PROSOCO's first restoration – Denver's 14-story Mountain States Telephone Building – quickly led to other prestigious projects, including the U.S. Capitol, Grand Central Station, Carnegie Hall, and thousands of landmark structures here and overseas.

In the mid-60s, PROSOCO developed long-lasting protective treatments for stone, tile, concrete and masonry. The line constantly expands and improves, meeting the growing needs of both homeowners and construction professionals.

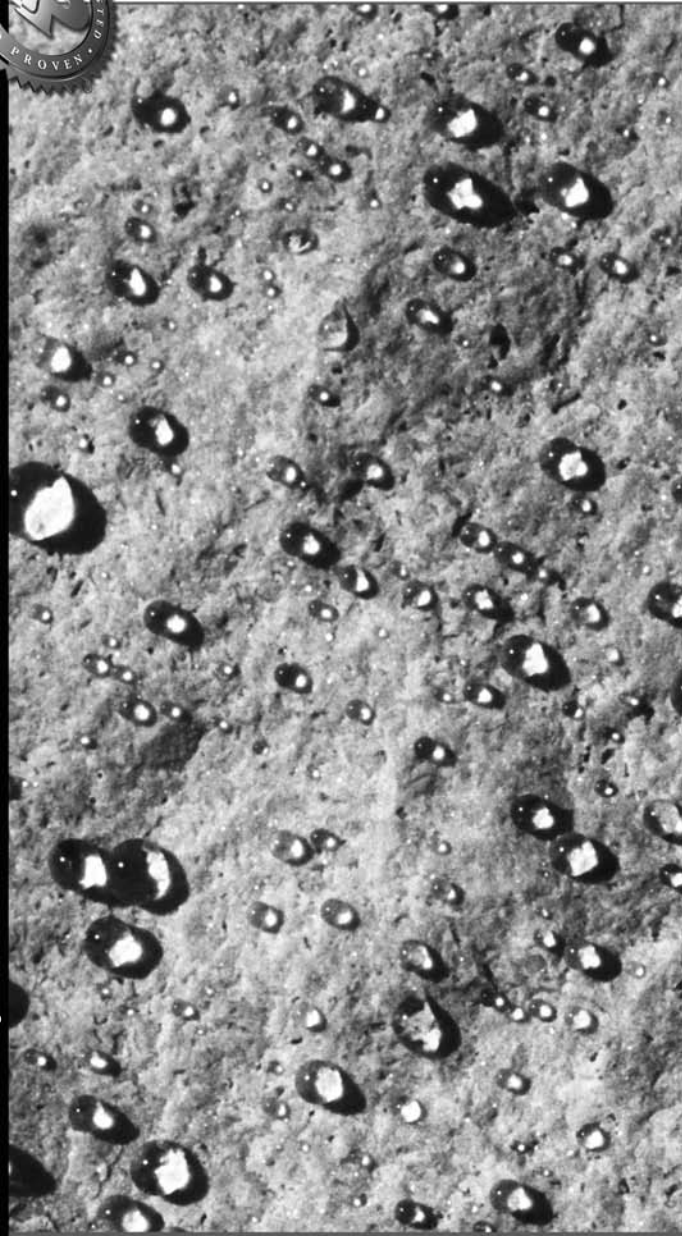
Today, family-owned and operated PROSOCO still answers the challenges of new construction, restoration and maintenance. From fighting graffiti to strengthening ancient stone, in small towns and big cities, PROSOCO remains the first name and the last word in cleaning, protecting and maintaining concrete, brick, stone and tile.

The first name and the last word in cleaning, protecting and maintaining your masonry investment.

PROSOCO
SINCE 1939

3741 Greenway Circle • Lawrence, KS 66046
1-800-255-4255 • www.prosoco.com

Stone & Tile Maintenance Guide



POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

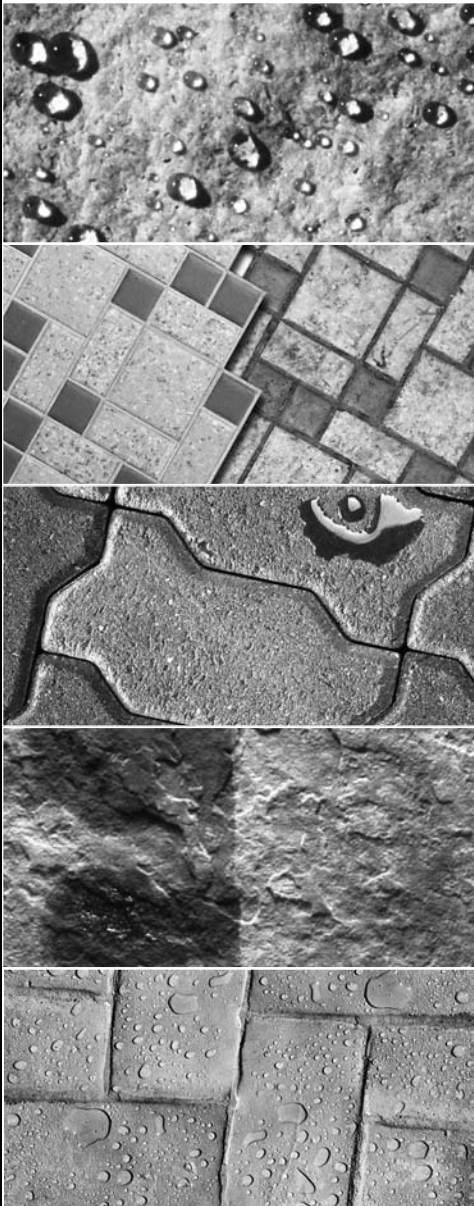
If the floor is not properly protected during the construction process, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner will do an excellent job of removing construction contaminants from the colored grout joint. Then routine maintenance with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner can begin.

STUBBORN STAINS

Most stubborn stains associated with glazed and glass mosaic tile are stains in the grout joints, not the tile itself. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner and Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner will be effective in most cases. The most common “stains” on glazed and glass mosaic tile are not stains at all. Rather they are surface hard-water deposits (remove with Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner), improper surface coatings or sealers (remove with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner [in concentrate]), paint or ink spills (remove with Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper), or severe oil spills (remove with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner). For stains not covered in this bulletin, contact PROSOCO's Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Glazed and glass mosaic tile are beautiful, durable, stain-resistant flooring materials that are easy to maintain. Surface coatings are not recommended and can harm the appearance. Remember, 15% of the floor surface is latex-modified Portland cement grout and may be subject to staining. ALWAYS TEST!



XII. Glazed and Glass Mosaic Tile

INTRODUCTION

Glazed and glass mosaic tile, although extremely durable with an absorption rate below 0.1%, still need care to ensure their long-lasting beauty and function. The following guide is a field-proven method using basic procedures, and basic and sophisticated products.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Remove grout film and construction dirt from the tile surface. Remove grout film immediately after grouting using clean water and cheesecloth, soft towels or a sponge. To limit shade variation in the grout, use as little water as possible. A Scotch-Brite™ or similar pad may also be helpful. If the grout film dries on the surface, a Scotch-Brite™ pad and water is usually enough to remove the film. Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction soil as well as grease and oil stains.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Sealing the surface with a film-forming sealer or coating is not recommended. Stand Off® SLX100 will protect the latex-modified Portland cement grout joints from both water- and oil-borne stains without affecting the impervious glazed or glass mosaic tile.

FLOOR FINISHES

Floor finishes are not recommended.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The method and frequency of routine maintenance varies from floor to floor. Variables include traffic volume, proximity to contaminants and function of the space. Important elements of routine cleaning are Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner and clean mops or brushes. Use a sponge or string mop to clean smooth surfaces, and use brush action to agitate and loosen surface soil on textured surfaces. While floors can certainly be maintained without rinsing, the grout color will soon be obscured by dirt if the floor is not rinsed after cleaning, unless Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner is used. Rinseless Cleaner's special ingredients keep dirt in suspension and therefore less likely to adhere to grout joints. Large commercial areas can be best maintained using commercial floor-scrubbing machines. Selection of the pad depends on the texture of the tile. Only soft brushes on a scrubbing machine or a scrubbing machine specially designed for ceramic tile floors will aid in cleaning the joints.

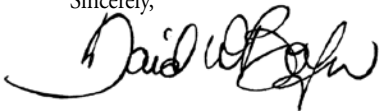
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Maintenance Guide Introduction

Welcome to PROSOCO's newly revised and updated Stone & Tile Maintenance Guide. Whether you are a homeowner, builder, contractor or maintenance professional, it's my hope that the information in this guide will help you in cleaning and protecting valuable stone and tile surfaces. Though stone and tile are durable, they still need care to ensure long-lasting beauty and function. Water, oil, food, the construction environment and other forces can degrade the utility and appearance of these surfaces and with them, their value. This guide, written by field-service experts, contains recommendations for the care of valuable stone and tile. From granite and marble to glazed and glass mosaic tile, nearly every eventuality is covered. In the rare instance where the guide may not cover a situation, please call PROSOCO's Customer Care Department toll-free at 800-255-4255. Ask for Technical Support. Our website at www.prosoco.com also has technical guidance, as well as contact information for your nearest PROSOCO field-service representative. Thanks for considering PROSOCO. Once again, I hope you find the Stone & Tile Maintenance Guide helpful.

Sincerely,



David W. Boyer
President
PROSOCO

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The method and frequency of routine maintenance varies from floor to floor. Variables include traffic volume, proximity to contaminants and function of the space. Important elements of routine cleaning are Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner and clean mops or brushes. Use a sponge or string mop to clean smooth surfaces, and use brush action to agitate and loosen surface soil on textured surfaces. While floors can certainly be maintained without rinsing, the grout color will soon be obscured by dirt if the floor is not rinsed after cleaning, unless Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner is used. Rinseless Cleaner's special ingredients keep dirt in suspension and therefore less likely to adhere to grout joints. Large commercial areas can be best maintained using commercial floor-scrubbing machines. Selection of the pad depends on the texture of the tile. Only soft brushes on a scrubbing machine or a scrubbing machine specially designed for ceramic tile floors will aid in cleaning the joints.

POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

If the floor is not properly protected during the construction process, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner will do an excellent job of removing construction contaminants from both the unglazed mosaic tile and the colored grout joint. Then routine maintenance with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner can begin.

STUBBORN STAINS

Most stubborn stains associated with unglazed mosaic tile floors are stains in the grout joints, not the tile itself. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner and Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner will be effective in most cases. The most common "stains" on unglazed mosaic tile are not stains at all. Rather they are surface hard-water deposits (remove with Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner), improper surface coatings or sealers (remove with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner [in concentrate]), paint or ink spills (remove with Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper), or severe oil spills (remove with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner). For stains not covered in this bulletin, contact PROSOCO's Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Unglazed mosaic tile is a beautiful, natural, durable, stain-resistant flooring material that is easy to maintain. Surface coatings are not recommended and can harm the appearance. In some service conditions, oil repellents can be desirable. Remember, 5% of the floor surface is latex-modified Portland cement grout and may be subject to staining. ALWAYS TEST!

XI. Unglazed Mosaic Tile

INTRODUCTION

Unglazed mosaic tile, although extremely durable with an absorption rate below 1%, still needs care to ensure its long-lasting beauty and function. The following guide is a field-proven method using basic procedures, and basic and sophisticated procedures.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Remove grout film and construction dirt from the tile surface. Remove grout film immediately after grouting using clean water and cheesecloth, soft towels or a sponge. To limit shade variation in the grout, use as little water as possible. A Scotch-Brite™ or similar pad may also be helpful. If the grout film dries on the surface, use a proprietary cleaner. Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner (in concentrate) is recommended as a nonacidic cleaner for removing latex-modified Portland cement grouts. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction soil as well as grease and oil stains. If both conditions exist on the same floor, use Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner. Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner is also very good at removing ground-in gypsum dust resulting from drywall or plaster sanding and patching occurring at other locations on the site simultaneously with grouting.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Sealing the surface with a film-forming sealer or coating is not recommended. Unglazed mosaic tiles are dense enough that surface film-forming products will not bond well with the tile and will wear off the surface quickly. Stand Off® SLX100 may be desirable as a pre-sealer when using a light-colored tile with a dark-colored grout joint. Because all silica-based, dense flooring materials have a higher oil-absorption rate than water-absorption rate, under some conditions oil stains can be hard to remove in routine maintenance. In food preparation or service areas, hotel drive-ups, shopping center food courts, automobile service areas and areas near industrial processes, use of a penetrating water and oil repellent may prove desirable. For these situations, Stand Off® SLX100 is recommended. SLX100 will not change the color or gloss on unglazed mosaic tiles. Complies with all known national, state and district AIM VOC regulations.

FLOOR FINISHES

If a floor finish is desired, Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB is a long-lasting, hard-wearing floor finish that will not cause a slip hazard on most unglazed mosaic tile floors. Gloss 'N Guard WB also stops dirt and foreign matter from penetrating the treated surface.

Safety

This publication provides general guidance about appropriate treatments for specific substrates. It's not meant to be, and cannot be used as instruction for applying products.

Before using any product mentioned in this guide, read its product data sheet and Material Safety Data Sheet. Product data sheets and Material Safety Data Sheets are available free by calling PROSOCO's Customer Care Department toll-free at 800-255-4255. You can also print them off PROSOCO's website at www.prosoco.com.

Read the product label thoroughly before using these treatments. Always follow application and safety instructions on the label, and in the product data sheet and Material Safety Data Sheet.

If you have questions or problems, call PROSOCO's Customer Care Department, and ask for technical support. Your nearest PROSOCO field representative will also be glad to help. Call Customer Care or visit www.prosoco.com to find the PROSOCO representative in your area.

Tile and Stone Care Products

Product Selection Guide	Clean		Protect		
	Safety Klean	Grout & Tile Cleaner	Stone, Tile & Masonry Protector (STMP)	Limestone & Marble Protector	SLX100 Water & Oil Repellent
	Excess Mortar, Job Dirt and Efflorescence		Water & Oil Repellent		
Ceramic (glazed)	1	2	2	3	1
Ceramic (unglazed)	1	2	2	3	1
Clay Pavers	1	2	1	3	1
Concrete Pavers	1	2	1	2	2
Field Stone	1	2	1	1	2
Granite (polished)	1	2	2		1
Granite (unpolished)	1	2	1	2	1
Grout	1	2	1	2	1
Limestone (polished)			2	1	1
Limestone (unpolished)		1	1	1	2
Marble (polished)			1	1	2
Marble (unpolished)		1	1	1	2
Porcelain (polished)	1	2	2		1
Porcelain (unpolished)	1	2	2		1
Satillo (Terra Cotta)	1	2	1	2	3
Sandstone	1	2	1	1	2
Slate (polished)	1	2	2		1
Slate (unpolished)	1	2	1	3	1

1-First Choice • 2-Second Choice • 3-Third Choice • E-Color Enhancing

Surface Prep/ Restoration Cleaning

Algae, Mildew

BioKlean™, BioWash®
All Surface Cleaner
Grout & Tile Cleaner

Asphalt, Tar, Paint, Black Seal

Safety Peel 1, 3
Asphalt & Tar Remover
Fast Acting Stripper

Marking Pen

Safety Peel 1, 3

General Soiling

Rinseless Cleaner
All Surface Cleaner
Liquid Marble Cleaner
HD Detergent

FLOOR FINISHES

Floor finishes are not recommended or needed on porcelain tile. They will wear quickly and may cause a slip hazard.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The method and frequency of routine maintenance varies from floor to floor. Variables include traffic volume, proximity to contaminants and function of the space. Important elements of routine cleaning are Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner and clean mops or brushes. Use a sponge or string mop to clean smooth surfaces, and use brush action to agitate and loosen surface soil on textured surfaces. While floors can certainly be maintained without rinsing, the grout color will soon be obscured by dirt if the floor is not rinsed after cleaning, unless Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner is used. Rinseless Cleaner's special ingredients keep dirt in suspension and therefore less likely to adhere to grout joints. Large commercial areas can be best maintained using commercial floor-scrubbing machines. Selection of the pad depends on the texture of the tile. Only soft brushes on a scrubbing machine or a scrubbing machine specially designed for ceramic tile floors will aid in cleaning the joints.

POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

If the floor is not properly protected during the construction process, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner will do an excellent job of removing construction contaminants from both the porcelain tile and the colored grout joint. Then routine maintenance with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner can begin.

STUBBORN STAINS

Most stubborn stains associated with porcelain tile floors are in the grout joints, not the tile itself. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner and Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner will be effective in most cases. The most common "stains" on porcelain tile are not stains at all. Rather they are surface hard-water deposits (remove with Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner), paint or ink spills (remove with Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper), or severe oil spills (remove with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner). For stains not covered in this bulletin, contact PROSOCO's Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Porcelain tile is a beautiful, natural, durable, stain-resistant flooring material that is easy to maintain. Surface coatings are not recommended and can harm the appearance. In some service conditions, oil repellents can be desirable. Remember, 5% of the floor surface is latex-modified Portland cement grout and may be subject to staining. ALWAYS TEST!

For VOC information on PROSOCO's protective treatments, see the applicable current product data sheet.

X. Porcelain Tile

INTRODUCTION

Porcelain tile, although extremely durable with an absorption rate below 1%, still needs care to ensure long-lasting beauty and function. The following guide is a field-proven method using basic procedures, and basic and sophisticated products.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Remove grout film and construction dirt from the tile surface. Remove grout film immediately after grouting using clean water and cheesecloth, soft towels or a sponge. To limit shade variation in the grout, use as little water as possible. A Scotch-Brite™ or similar pad may also be helpful. If the grout film dries on the surface, use a proprietary cleaner. Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner (in concentrate) is recommended as a nonacidic cleaner for removing latex-modified Portland cement grouts. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction soil as well as grease and oil stains. If both conditions exist on the same surface, use Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner. Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner is also good at removing ground-in gypsum dust from drywall or plaster sanding and patching occurring at other locations on the site simultaneously with grouting.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Sealing the surface with a film-forming sealer or coating is not recommended. Porcelain tiles are dense enough that surface film-forming products will not bond well with the tile and will wear off the surface quickly. Stand Off® SLX100 may be desirable as a pre-sealer when using a light-colored tile with a dark-colored grout joint. Because all silica-based, dense flooring materials (granite and porcelain tile) have a higher oil absorption rate than water absorption rate, under some conditions oil stains can be hard to remove in routine maintenance.

In food preparation or service areas, shopping center food courts, automobile service areas and areas near industrial processes, use of a penetrating water and oil repellent may prove desirable. For these situations, Stand Off® SLX100 is recommended. SLX100 will not change the color or gloss on either polished or unpolished porcelain tile. SLX100 complies with all known national, state and district AIM VOC regulations

			Maintain					
Stain Barrier	Weather Seal Siloxane WB	Color Enhancer	Gloss 'N Guard/WB	Stone Polish	Rinseless Cleaner	All Surface Cleaner/PD	Liquid Marble Cleaner	Degreaser
Water & Oil Repellent	Water Repellent Only		Topical		Daily Cleaning	Heavy Cleaning		
3			T	T	1	1	2	1
2	1	E	T	T	1	1	2	1
1	1	E	T	T	1	1		1
1	1	E	T	T	1	1	2	1
2		E	T	T	1	1	1	1
3			T	T	1	1	2	1
2		E	T	T	1	1	1	1
2	1	E	T	T	1	1	1	1
2			T	T	1	1	1	2
2		E	T	T	1	1	1	2
2			T	T	1	1	1	2
2		E	T	T	1	1	1	2
3			T	T	1	1	2	3
3	1		T	T	1	1	2	1
1	1	E	T	T	1	1	2	1
3	1	E	T	T	1	1	2	1
2			T	T	1	1	2	1
1	1	E	T	T	1	1	2	1

Always test to ensure desired results, and proper dilution where appropriate.

High-strength Coatings

Fast Acting Stripper
Safety Peel 1, 3

Wax Stripping

Graffiti Wipe
Safety Peel 1, 3

Oil

Degreaser

Rust

Grout & Tile Cleaner

I. Granite and Granite Tile

INTRODUCTION

Granite, although extremely durable with an absorption rate often below 1%, still needs care to ensure its long-lasting beauty and function. The following guide is a field-proven method using basic procedures, and basic and sophisticated products.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Remove grout film and construction dirt from the stone's surface. Remove grout film immediately after grouting using clean water and cheesecloth, soft towels or a sponge. To limit shade variation in the grout, use as little water as possible. A Scotch-Brite™ or similar pad may also be helpful. If the grout film dries on the surface, use a proprietary cleaner. Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner (in concentrate) is recommended as a nonacidic cleaner for removing latex-modified Portland cement grouts. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction soil, as well as grease and oil stains. If both conditions exist on the same floor, use Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner. Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner is also very good at removing ground-in gypsum dust resulting from drywall or plaster sanding and patching occurring at other locations on the site simultaneously with grouting.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Sealing the surface with a film-forming sealer or coating is not recommended, except where a polished surface may be too slippery. When this condition occurs, use Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB. Grout release agents are not normally required with granite or granite tiles. Because all silica-based dense flooring materials (granite and porcelain tile) have a higher oil absorption rate than water absorption rate, under some conditions oil stains can be difficult to remove in routine maintenance. In areas such as hotel drive-up areas, shopping center food courts, automobile service areas and areas near industrial processes, use of a penetrating water and oil repellent may prove desirable. For these situations, Stand Off® SLX100 Water & Oil Repellent is recommended. SLX100 will not change the color or gloss on either polished or unpolished granite. SLX100 complies with all known national, state and district AIM VOC regulations.

FLOOR FINISHES

Floor finishes are not recommended or needed on polished granite. Thermal finish (unpolished granite) may benefit from the use of Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB. Gloss 'N Guard WB will not reduce slip resistance, but will stop dirt and foreign matter from penetrating the treated surface.

FLOOR FINISHES

Floor finishes are not recommended or needed on glazed floor tile. They will wear quickly and may cause a slip hazard.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The method and frequency of routine maintenance varies from floor to floor. Variables include traffic volume, proximity to contaminants and function of the space. Important elements of routine cleaning are Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner and clean mops or brushes. Use a sponge or string mop to clean smooth surfaces, and use brush action to agitate and loosen surface soil on textured surfaces. While floors can certainly be maintained without rinsing, the grout color will soon be obscured by dirt if the floor is not rinsed after cleaning, unless Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner is used. Rinseless Cleaner's special ingredients keep dirt in suspension and therefore less likely to adhere to grout joints. Large commercial areas can be best maintained using commercial floor-scrubbing machines. Selection of the pad depends on the texture of the tile. Only soft brushes on a scrubbing machine or a scrubbing machine specially designed for ceramic tile floors will aid in cleaning the joints.

POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

If the floor is not properly protected during the construction process, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner will do an excellent job of removing construction contaminants from both the glazed floor tile and the colored grout joint. Then routine maintenance with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner can begin.

STUBBORN STAINS

Most stubborn stains associated with glazed floor tile are stains in the grout joints, not the tile itself. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner and Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner will be effective in most cases. The most common "stains" on glazed floor tile are not stains at all. Rather they are surface hard-water deposits (remove with Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner), improper surface coatings or sealers (remove with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner [in concentrate]), paint or ink spills (remove with Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper), or severe oil spills (remove with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner). For stains not covered in this bulletin, contact PROSOCO's Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Glazed floor tile is a beautiful, natural, durable, stain-resistant flooring material that is easy to maintain. Surface coatings are not recommended and can harm the appearance. In most severe conditions, oil repellents can be desirable for the grout joints. Remember, 5% of the floor surface is latex-modified Portland cement grout and may be subject to staining. ALWAYS TEST!

IX. Glazed (Monocottura) Floor Tiles

INTRODUCTION

Glazed floor tile varies considerably in durability. Glaze ratings range from 1 to 5 with 1 being for walls only and 5 being suitable for fast-food restaurant floors. Glazed floor tiles are, however, uniformly stain-resistant. Texture of the tile determines both ease of cleaning and slip resistance. The following guide is a field-proven method of maintenance using basic procedures, and basic and sophisticated products.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Remove grout film and construction dirt from the tile surface. Remove grout film immediately after grouting using clean water and cheesecloth, soft towels or a sponge. To limit shade variation in the grout, use as little water as possible. A Scotch-Brite™ or similar pad may also be helpful. If the grout film dries on the surface, use a proprietary cleaner. Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner (in concentrate) is recommended as a nonacidic cleaner for removing latex modified Portland cement grouts. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction soil as well as grease and oil stains. If both conditions exist on the same floor, use Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner. Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner is also very good for removing ground-in gypsum dust from drywall or plaster sanding and patching occurring at other locations on the site simultaneously with grouting. Some very soft glazes may be damaged by Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner, so test a small area before general cleaning.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Sealing the surface with a film-forming sealer or coating is not recommended. Glazed floor tiles are impervious enough that surface film-forming products will not bond well with the tile and will wear off the surface quickly.

Because glazed floor tiles are impervious, protection from surface staining is not required. However, the latex-modified grout joints are prone to staining from oils. Both food products and automotive fluids quickly turn a pastel floor joint brown or even black. So protection of the grout joint is desirable. Stand Off® SLX100 protects the grout joint without damaging or adhering to the glaze on the tile. SLX100 can be applied as soon as the grout is dry and absorbent. This usually occurs within 24 hours of grouting on new installations or within two hours of cleaning an older one. SLX100 dries within 30 minutes. Floor traffic can begin after 2 hours and 70% effectiveness is achieved within 24 hours. SLX100 complies with all known national, state and district AIM VOC regulations

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The method and frequency of routine maintenance varies from floor to floor. Variables include traffic volume, proximity to contaminants, and function of the space. Important elements of routine cleaning are Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner and clean mops or brushes. Use a sponge or string mop to clean smooth surfaces, and use brush action to agitate and loosen surface soil on textured surfaces. While floors can certainly be maintained without rinsing, the grout color will soon be obscured by dirt if the floor is not rinsed after cleaning, unless Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner is used. Rinseless Cleaner's special ingredients keep dirt in suspension and therefore less likely to adhere to grout joints. Large commercial areas can best be maintained using commercial floor-scrubbing machines. Selection of the pad depends on the texture of the tile. Only soft brushes on a scrubbing machine will aid in cleaning the joints. Countertops and similar small areas may be maintained with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner PD or Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner Wipes.

POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

If the floor is not properly protected during the construction process, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner will do an excellent job of removing construction contaminants from both the granite and the colored grout joint. Then routine maintenance with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner can begin.

STUBBORN STAINS

Most stubborn stains associated with granite floors are stains in the grout joints, not the granite itself. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner and Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner will be effective in most cases. The most common "stains" on granite tile are not stains at all. Rather they are surface hard-water deposits (remove with Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner), improper surface coatings or sealers (remove with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner [in concentrate]), paint or ink spills (remove with Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper), or severe oil spills (remove with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner). For stains not covered in this bulletin, contact PROSOCO's Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Granite is a beautiful, natural, durable, stain-resistant flooring material that is easy to maintain. Film-forming sealers are not recommended and can be harmful to the appearance. In some service conditions, oil repellents can be desirable. Remember, 5% of the floor surface is latex-modified Portland cement grout and may be subject to staining. ALWAYS TEST!

II. Honed Limestone, Marble & Travertine

INTRODUCTION

Most honed limestone, while extremely durable and scratch-resistant, is highly susceptible to etching and oil staining from common household food products including vegetable oil, bacon grease, butterfat and mustard. Grout pigment will occasionally stain some species of honed limestone, especially if it is a contrasting color of grout. The following guide contains field-proven methods of cleaning and protecting this beautiful and natural material. As with most guides, not all conditions or species of stone can be anticipated. Always test a small area before cleaning or treating the entire surface.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Remove grout film and construction dirt from the stone surface. Remove grout film immediately after grouting using clean water and cheesecloth, soft towels or a sponge. To limit shade variation in the grout, use as little water as possible. A Scotch-Brite™ or similar pad may also be helpful. If the grout film dries on the surface, use a proprietary cleaner. Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner (in concentrate) is recommended as a nonacidic cleaner for removing latex-modified Portland cement grouts. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction soil as well as grease and oil stains. Stand Off® Oil & Grease Stain Remover may safely be used to remove deep-seated oil and grease stains. Do not use acid-based cleaners unless testing shows no damage to the stone will result.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Sealing the surface with a film-forming sealer or coating is recommended only for the purpose of improving slip-resistance on a floor or acid resistance on a floor, wall or countertop. On floors Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB is recommended. On walls and countertops, Stand Off® Stone Polish is recommended. Because of the tendency of oils to stain honed limestone, a penetrating oil repellent is of considerable value. The recommended treatment is Stand Off® Limestone & Marble Protector or Stand Off® Stone, Tile & Masonry Protector. Limestone & Marble Protector may also be used as a pre-sealer. Allow four days for Limestone & Marble Protector to cure before grouting.

FLOOR FINISHES

If a floor finish is required, Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB is a long-lasting, hard-wearing floor finish that will not reduce slip resistance on most limestone floors. It will prevent dirt and foreign matter from penetrating the treated surface.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The method and frequency of routine maintenance varies from floor to floor. Variables include traffic volume, proximity to contaminants and function of the space. Important elements of routine cleaning are Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner and clean mops or brushes. Use a sponge or string mop to clean smooth surfaces, and use brush action to agitate and loosen surface soil on textured surfaces. While floors can certainly be maintained without rinsing, the grout color will soon be obscured by dirt if the floor is not rinsed after cleaning, unless Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner is used. Rinseless Cleaner's special ingredients keep dirt in suspension and therefore less likely to adhere to grout joints. Large commercial areas can be best maintained using commercial floor scrubbing machines. Selection of the pad depends on the texture of the tile. Only soft brushes on a scrubbing machine or a scrubbing machine specially designed for ceramic tile floors will aid in cleaning the joints.

POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

If the floor is not properly protected during the construction process, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner will do an excellent job of removing construction contaminants from both the quarry tile and the colored grout joint. Then routine maintenance with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner can begin.

STUBBORN STAINS

Most stubborn stains associated with quarry tile floors are stains in the grout joints, not the tile itself. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner and Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner will be effective in most cases. The most common "stains" on quarry tile are not stains at all. Rather they are surface hard-water deposits (remove with Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner), improper surface coatings or sealers (remove with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner [in concentrate]), paint or ink spills (remove with Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper), or severe oil spills (remove with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner). For stains not covered in this bulletin, contact PROSOCO's Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Quarry tile is a beautiful, natural, durable flooring material that is easy to maintain. Surface coatings are recommended when added luster is desired. Surface coatings introduce the potential for traffic patterns and need periodic maintenance. In most service conditions oil repellents are desirable for the floor. ALWAYS TEST!

VIII. Quarry Tile Floors

INTRODUCTION

Quarry tile floors are natural clay, usually an earth tone and should have an absorption rate of 5% or less. They are suitable for many applications from residential floors to commercial kitchens to industrial floors. They are extremely durable and give a warm, natural look. The tiles may be extruded or pressed and may be as thin as 3/8" or as thick as 7/8". While durable, frost-proof and beautiful, these floors are prone to staining. The following guide is a field-proven method of maintenance using basic procedures, and basic and sophisticated products.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Remove grout film and construction dirt from the tile surface. Remove grout film immediately after grouting using clean water and cheesecloth, soft towels or a sponge. To limit shade variation in the grout, use as little water as possible. A Scotch-Brite™ or similar pad may also be helpful. If the grout film dries on the surface, use a proprietary cleaner. Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner (in concentrate) is recommended as a nonacidic cleaner for removing latex-modified Portland cement grouts. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction soil as well as grease and oil stains. If both conditions exist on the same floor, use Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner. Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner is also very good at removing ground-in gypsum dust resulting from drywall or plaster sanding and patching occurring at other locations on the site simultaneously with grouting.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Sealing the surface with a film-forming sealer or coating is only done to add sheen where none naturally exists. When a soft sheen is desired, a light, uniform application of Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB will achieve the desired look. Because quarry tile and the accompanying latex-modified grout joint are prone to staining, a combination water and oil repellent is necessary to maintain the "new" look. Food products and automotive fluids quickly turn a pastel floor joint brown or black. These staining agents also stain and spot the quarry tile. Stand Off® Stone, Tile & Masonry Protector will effectively stop oil-borne stains from penetrating the tile and the joints.

FLOOR FINISHES

Floor finishes such as Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB can add luster to quarry tile floors. Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB is a long-lasting, hard-wearing floor finish that will not reduce slip resistance on most quarry tile floors. It will stop dirt and foreign matter from penetrating the treated surface.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The method and frequency of routine cleaning varies from surface to surface. Sponges or Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner PD or Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner Wipes are usually enough for walls and countertops while sponge or string mops work on residential floors. When scrubbing machines are used on commercial floors, take care to select a pad that does not mar or scratch the surface. Periodically rinse the surface with clean water to flush the surface or abrasive or use a slightly alkaline cleaner such as Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner. Acids, including vinegar, are not recommended on limestone floors!

POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

If the surface is not properly protected during the construction period, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner may be required to return the stone and grout to its new appearance. In extreme cases use other products mentioned in the "New Installations" paragraph. Protection from other trades with non-staining Kraft paper or its equivalent makes initial cleaning much easier.

STUBBORN STAINS

Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is the most versatile "heavy duty" limestone cleaner on the market. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner removes general dirt, grease and oil stains, mildew and many other common stains. Stand Off® Poultice Powder mixed with Enviro Klean® Degreaser may safely be used to remove deep-seated oil and grease stains (including automotive fluids). Stand Off® Marble Poultice removes deep-seated dirt and grime. The hardest stain to remove from limestone is deep-seated copper. For information about removing copper stains, contact PROSOCO's Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Honed limestone floors and countertops are luxurious, durable and natural. They are, however, prone to oil staining. Oil repellents are always recommended. Stand Off® Limestone & Marble Protector and Stand Off® Stone, Tile & Masonry Protector do not change color, gloss or slip resistance. They are more than 95% vapor permeable and last up to two years on exterior applications and up to five years on interior applications. Get professional advice when necessary. While many home remedies are effective, they usually only work in the hands of a stone professional. ALWAYS TEST!

III. Polished Marble, Travertine and Limestone

INTRODUCTION

For this maintenance guide on polished stone, marble, travertine, and limestone, all will be referred to as marble. What is said about marble also applies to the other stones. Polished granite is covered in another section of this guide. Polished marble, though durable, is highly prone to scratching. It is also highly susceptible to etching and oil staining from common household food products, including vegetable oil, bacon grease, butterfat and mustard. Grout pigment will stain some species of honed marble, especially if a contrasting color of grout is selected. The following guide contains field-proven methods for cleaning and protecting this beautiful, natural product. As with most guides, not all conditions or species of stone can be anticipated. Whenever cleaning or treating, test a small area before cleaning or treating the entire surface.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Remove film and construction dirt from the stone's surface. Remove grout film immediately after grouting using clean water and cheesecloth, soft towels or a sponge. To limit shade variation in the grout, use as little water as possible. A Scotch-Brite™ or similar pad may also be helpful. If the grout film dries on the surface, use a proprietary cleaner. Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner (in concentrate) is recommended as a nonacidic cleaner for removing latex-modified Portland cement grouts. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction soil as well as grease and oil stains. Stand Off® Oil & Grease Stain Remover (a liquid poultice) may safely be used to remove deep-seated oil and grease stains. Do not use acid-based cleaners. They will etch the stone.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Sealing the surface with a film-forming sealer or coating is recommended only for the purpose of improving slip-resistance on a floor or acid resistance on a floor, wall or countertop. On floors Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB is recommended. On walls and countertops, Stand Off® Stone Polish is recommended. Because of the tendency of oils to stain honed limestone, a penetrating oil repellent is of considerable value. The recommended treatments are Stand Off® Limestone & Marble Protector and Stand Off® Stone, Tile & Masonry Protector.

FLOOR FINISHES

Floor finishes are not recommended or needed on polished marble floors. They will wear quickly and may cause a slip hazard. If the floor is already too slippery and a coating is needed to increase slip resistance, try Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The method and frequency of routine maintenance varies from floor to floor. Variables include traffic volume, proximity to contaminants, and function of the space. Important elements of routine cleaning are Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner and clean mops or brushes. Use a sponge or string mop to clean smooth surfaces, and use brush action to agitate and loosen surface soil on textured surfaces. While floors can certainly be maintained without rinsing, the grout color will soon be obscured by dirt if the floor is not rinsed after cleaning, unless Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner is used. Rinseless Cleaner's special ingredients keep dirt in suspension and therefore less likely to adhere to grout joints. Large commercial areas can be best maintained using commercial floor-scrubbing machines. Selection of the pad depends on surface texture of the pavement.

POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

If the floor is not properly protected during the construction process, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner will do an excellent job of removing construction contaminants from clay pavers. Then routine maintenance with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner can begin.

STUBBORN STAINS

Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner and Sure Klean® Custom Masonry Cleaner are effective in most cases. The most common "stains" on clay pavers are surface hard-water deposits (remove with Custom Masonry Cleaner), improper surface coatings and sealers (remove with Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper), paint or ink spills (remove with Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper) or severe oil spills (remove with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner). For stains not covered in this bulletin, contact PROSOCO's Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Brick pavers are beautiful, natural, durable flooring materials that are easy to maintain. Surface coatings are not recommended, especially for exterior applications. Surface coatings introduce the potential for traffic patterns and need periodic maintenance. In most service conditions, oil repellents can be desirable for the floor. ALWAYS TEST!

VII. Brick Pavers

INTRODUCTION

Brick paver walks, patios, driveways, and accent areas have become popular in recent years. Their moderate cost and superb resistance to freeze/thaw cycling has made them the product of choice in many residential and commercial applications. The most common complaints about these products are lack of oil resistance and formation of a white “milky” film on the surface. This maintenance guide addresses both complaints, and routine care and maintenance.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Pavers are normally installed in a bed of sand and left ungrouted. So, there may be little or no construction residue to clean up. Sure Klean® Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction stains and atmospheric dirt. Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner will also improve color uniformity and enhance the appearance of a new installation. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner can remove oil stains on new installations.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Sealing the surface with a film-forming sealer or coating is one way of enhancing color or creating a “wet” look on a clay paver. However, these products do not “breathe” well. When water gets into the clay product from below or the sides, a “milky” white sealer blush may result. If this occurs, use Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper to remove the blush and the sealer. To maintain vapor permeability and prevent salt damage while also preventing waterborne staining, use Sure Klean® Weather Seal Siloxane WB. To achieve oil repellency, apply Stand Off® SLX100 over Weather Seal Siloxane WB. If color enhancement is desired, use Stand Off® Paver Enhancer. Always test a small area to ensure the desired results.

FLOOR FINISHES

If a floor finish is desired, Stand Off® Gloss ‘N Guard WB is a long-lasting, hard-wearing floor finish. Gloss ‘N Guard WB will not reduce slip resistance on most clay paver floors. Gloss ‘N Guard WB stops dirt and foreign matter from penetrating the treated surfaces.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The frequency of routine cleaning varies from surface to surface. Daily dust mopping (more often on high-traffic commercial floors) will greatly prolong the life of the polished finish. Sponges or Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner PD or Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner Wipes are usually enough for walls and countertops while sponge or string mops work for washing residential floors. When scrubbing machines are used on commercial floors, care must be taken in selecting a pad so that the surface is not marred or scratched. Periodic rinsing with clean water is necessary to flush the surface of abrasive-such as tracked-in dirt and residue from cleaners. A pH-neutral or slightly alkaline cleaner such as Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner may be used. Acids, including vinegar, are not recommended on marble surfaces!

POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

If the surface is not properly protected during the construction period, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner may be required to return the stone and grout to its new appearance. The other products mentioned in the “New Installations” paragraph may be needed in extreme cases. Always test an inconspicuous area before beginning general cleaning. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner may etch some species of dark-colored marble.

STUBBORN STAINS

Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is the most versatile “heavy duty” marble cleaner on the market. Safe for most marble surfaces, Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner removes general dirt, grease and oil stains, mildew and many other common stains. Stand Off® Poultrice Powder mixed with Enviro Klean® Degreaser may safely be used to remove deep-seated oil and grease stains (including automotive fluids). Stand Off® Poultrice Powder removes deep-seated dirt and grime. The most common “stain” is not a stain at all. Rings or smears from water, wine or soft drinks are not stains. They are usually etching of the stone. Repolishing the stone is the only solution to this problem. Fortunately, many stone and tile dealers offer easy “Do-It-Yourself” kits for this purpose. Always practice on a scrap piece of stone before doing general repolishing of marble. The hardest stain to remove from marble is deep-seated copper stain. To remove this stain, contact PROSOCO’s Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Polished marble, travertine, and limestone floors and countertops are luxurious and durable. However, oil repellents are nearly always indicated. Stand Off® Limestone & Marble Protector does not change color, gloss or slip resistance. It is more than 95% vapor permeable and lasts up to two years on exterior applications and up to five years on interior applications. While many home remedies are effective, they usually only work in the hands of a stone professional. ALWAYS TEST!

IV. Sandstone Floors (Including bluestone)

INTRODUCTION

Sandstone is often chosen for a flooring material because of the broad and unusual range of color and texture available in this natural stone paving material. Sandstone runs the gamut from very porous to very dense. While this maintenance guide addresses many of the variables found in sandstone flooring, a thorough discussion with your stone salesperson is advised to determine what, if any, unusual properties may be found in the stone you are purchasing.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Remove grout film and construction soil from the stone's surface. Remove grout film immediately after grouting using clean water and cheesecloth, soft towels or a sponge. To limit shade variation in the grout, use as little water as possible. A Scotch-Brite™ or similar pad may be helpful. If the grout film dries on the surface, use a proprietary cleaner. Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner (in concentrate) is recommended as a nonacidic cleaner for removing latex-modified Portland cement grouts. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction soil as well as grease and oil stains. If both conditions exist on the same floor, Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner can be used unless your sandstone is acid-sensitive. Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner is also very good at removing ground-in gypsum dust resulting from drywall or plaster sanding and patching occurring at other locations on the site simultaneously with grouting.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Sealing the surface with a film-forming sealer or coating is sometimes desirable. Depth of color can be enhanced with Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB. Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB bonds well to sandstone and adds a low, lustrous sheen. Grout release agents are often needed to keep color pigment in the grout from staining the tiles. When required, Stand Off® SLX100 often does an excellent job. Oil staining is always a problem with sandstone floors. For maximum performance on a sandstone floor, Stand Off® Stone, Tile & Masonry Protector is recommended as a water and oil repellent. When color enhancement and oil repellency are both required, Stand Off® Color Enhancer can be applied.

FLOOR FINISHES

Floor finishes are often desirable on sandstone. Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB is a long-lasting, hard-wearing floor finish that will not reduce slip resistance on most sandstone floors. Gloss 'N Guard WB stops dirt and foreign matter from penetrating the treated surface. Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB will add depth of color and luster to a sandstone floor. Always test a small area before general application of any floor finish.

FLOOR FINISHES

If a floor finish is desired, Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB is a long-lasting, hard-wearing floor finish. Gloss 'N Guard WB will reduce slip resistance on most architectural concrete floors. Gloss 'N Guard WB stops dirt and foreign matter from penetrating the treated surface.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The method and frequency of routine maintenance varies based on traffic volume, proximity to contaminants, and function of the space. Important elements of routine cleaning are Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner and clean mops or brushes. Use a sponge or string mop to clean smooth surfaces, and use brush action to agitate and loosen surface soil on textured surfaces. Large commercial areas can be best maintained using commercial floor-scrubbing machines. Selection of the pad depends on surface texture of the pavement.

POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

If the floor is not properly protected during the construction process, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner will do an excellent job of removing construction contaminants from both concrete pavers and concrete pavement. Then routine maintenance with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner can begin.

STUBBORN STAINS

Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner and Sure Klean® Custom Masonry Cleaner are effective in most cases. The most common "stains" on concrete and concrete pavers are surface hard-water deposits (remove with Custom Masonry Cleaner), improper surface coatings or sealers (remove with Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper), paint or ink spills (remove with Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper), or severe oil spills (remove with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner). For stains not covered in this bulletin, contact PROSOCO's Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Pigmented and architectural concrete products are beautiful, durable flooring materials that are easy to maintain. Surface coatings are not recommended, especially for exterior applications. Surface coatings need periodic maintenance. In most service conditions, oil repellents can be desirable for the floor. For color enhancement and protection of these surfaces, use the protective treatments described above. ALWAYS TEST!

VI. Architectural Concrete Product Floors

Includes: Concrete Pavers, Stamped Concrete, Colored Concrete, and Exposed Aggregate Floors, Pavement or Walkways.

INTRODUCTION

Concrete and concrete paver walks, patios, driveways, and accent areas have become very popular in recent years. Their low-cost and superb resistance to freeze/thaw cycling has made them the product of choice in many residential and commercial applications. The most common complaints about these products are: lack of oil resistance, lack of color depth and formation of a white “milky” film on the surface. This maintenance guide addresses all three complaints, and routine care and maintenance.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Pavers are normally installed in a bed of sand and left ungrouted. Frequently, there is little or no construction residue to clean up. Sure Klean® Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction stains and atmospheric dirt. Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner will also improve color uniformity and enhance the appearance of a new installation. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner can be used to remove oil stains on new installations.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Spray-applied chemical curing compounds are frequently used to control evaporation and ensure complete curing of stamped concrete, colored concrete and exposed aggregate concrete floors and walkways. Residues of such curing compounds which detract from the finished appearance of the concrete may be removed using Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper. If the appearance remains mottled, clean smooth surfaces using Sure Klean® Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner. Clean heavily textured surfaces with Sure Klean® Custom Masonry Cleaner. Cast concrete which has been colored may rely upon “dry shake” powders applied to the fresh concrete to impart color. In most cases, the color uniformity of such surfaces can be improved by cleaning with dilute solutions of Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner (smooth surfaces) or Custom Masonry Cleaner (heavily textured surfaces). Always test a small area to ensure the desired results. Do not overapply.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The method and frequency of routine maintenance varies from floor to floor. Variables include traffic volume, proximity to contaminants, and function of the space. Important elements of routine cleaning are Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner and clean mops or brushes. Use a sponge or string mop to clean smooth surfaces, and use brush action to agitate and loosen surface soil on textured surfaces. While floors can certainly be maintained without rinsing, the grout color will soon be obscured by dirt if the floor is not rinsed after cleaning, unless Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner is used. Rinseless Cleaner’s special ingredients keep dirt in suspension and therefore less likely to adhere to grout joints. Large commercial areas can best be maintained using commercial floor-scrubbing machines. Selection of the pad depends on the texture of the stone.

POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

If the floor is not properly protected during the construction process, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner will do an excellent job of removing construction contaminants from both the sandstone and the colored grout joint. Then routine maintenance with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner can begin.

STUBBORN STAINS

Sandstone is often plagued with stubborn stains. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner and Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner are effective in most cases. The most common stains on sandstone are oil-based. These stains respond well to concentrated Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner followed by rinsing. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is even more effective. In severe cases, Stand Off® Poultice Powder mixed with Enviro Klean® Degreaser may be necessary. Rust is a very common stain that occurs in bluestone, a type of sandstone. Sure Klean® Restoration Cleaner is an excellent product for removing this stain, but is extremely hazardous to use. We recommend that this product only be used by a trained professional stone restoration contractor. For stains not covered in this bulletin, contact PROSOCO’s Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Sandstone is a beautiful, natural flooring material that is easy to maintain if properly protected. Surface coatings can enhance the natural beauty of these floors. In virtually all service conditions, oil repellents can be desirable for both the stone and the grout joints. Prospective cleaners and treatments should be tested before general application even more than with most other types of flooring materials. Even appropriate cleaners and treatments can be misapplied. ALWAYS TEST!

V. Slate

INTRODUCTION

Slates are mainly mica and quartz and are almost universally freeze/thaw durable. However, due to significant differences between slates, preparing a general maintenance guide is difficult. Exposure to the elements, to lots of water, or to certain chemicals can fade the color of these stones. For this reason, test any proposed treatment or cleaning method. On single-color floors or counters, test both the palest and deepest color stone. On multiple-colored floors and counters, test each color.

NEW INSTALLATIONS

Remove grout film and construction dirt from the stone's surface. Remove grout film immediately after grouting using clean water and cheesecloth, soft towels or a sponge. To limit shade variation in the grout, use as little water as possible. A Scotch-Brite™ or similar pad may also be helpful. Stiff brushes may also be useful. Never use a wire brush on natural stone. If the grout film dries on the surface, use a proprietary cleaner. Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner (in concentrate) is recommended as a nonacidic cleaner for removing latex-modified Portland cement grouts. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner is recommended for removing general construction soil as well as grease and oil stains. Stand Off® Oil & Grease Stain Remover, (a liquid poultice) may safely be used to remove deep-seated oil and grease stains. Do not use acids unless tests show no damage to the stone will result.

PROTECTIVE TREATMENTS

Sealing the surface with a film-forming sealer is often desirable. Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB makes slate look slightly wet, imparting a richer color and a slight luster to the stone. Slip resistance with this product is compatible with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Guidelines. The near 0% water absorption rate of most slate keeps waterborne stains on or very near the surface, simplifying their removal with a wide variety of cleaning products. However, oil-borne stains often penetrate deeper than conventional cleaning techniques can reach. For this reason, Stand Off® SLX100 Water and Oil Repellent is recommended. SLX100 simplifies maintenance without changing the color or gloss of the slate or the latex-modified Portland cement grout in the joints. SLX100 complies with all known national, state and district AIM VOC regulations. Where both oil repellency and darkening are desired, the slate floor or countertop can first be treated with Stand Off® Color Enhancer.

FLOOR FINISHES

If a floor finish is desired, Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard WB is a long-lasting, hard-wearing floor finish. Gloss 'N Guard WB will not reduce slip resistance on most slate floors. It stops dirt and foreign matter from penetrating the treated surface.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

The method and frequency of routine maintenance varies from floor to floor. Variables include traffic volume, proximity to contaminants and function of the space. Important elements of routine cleaning are Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner and clean mops or brushes. Use a sponge or string mop to clean smooth surfaces, and use brush action to agitate and loosen surface soil on textured surfaces. While floors can certainly be maintained without rinsing, the grout color will soon be obscured by dirt if the floor is not rinsed after cleaning, unless Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner is used. Rinseless Cleaner's special ingredients keep dirt in suspension and therefore less likely to adhere to grout joints. Large commercial areas can best be maintained using commercial floor-scrubbing machines. Selection of the pad depends on the texture of the tile. Only soft brushes on a scrubbing machine will aid in cleaning the joints. Countertops may be maintained with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner, Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner PD or Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner Wipes.

POST-CONSTRUCTION CLEANUP

If the floor is not properly protected during the construction process, an initial cleaning with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner will do an excellent job of removing construction contaminants from the surface. Always test a scrap piece before general cleaning is done. Then routine maintenance with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner can begin.

STUBBORN STAINS

Most stubborn stains associated with slate are stains in the grout joints, not the tile itself. Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner and Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner will be effective in most cases. The most common "stains" on slate are not stains at all. Rather they are surface hard-water deposits (remove with Stand Off® Grout & Tile Cleaner), improper surface coatings or sealers (remove with Stand Off® Rinseless Cleaner [in concentrate]), paint or ink spills (remove with Sure Klean® Fast Acting Stripper), or severe oil spills (remove with Stand Off® All Surface Cleaner). For stains not covered in this bulletin, contact PROSOCO's Customer Care Department at 1-800-255-4255.

SUMMARY

Slate is a beautiful, natural, durable, stain-resistant flooring materials that is easy to maintain. Surface coatings can deepen or enhance the natural color of the stone. In some service conditions oil repellents can be desirable. Remember, 5% of the floor surface is latex-modified cement grout and may be subject to staining. ALWAYS TEST!