



ENGLISH
CITY STONE



Caring For Your New Portland Stone



Your new stone should not require much work in the way of maintenance. Portland Stone will weather over time, but certain factors can sway the way in which the weathering affects the material.

Portland Stone does not normally require cleaning to safeguard its durability, cleaning is usually a cosmetic requirement and therefore subject to personal interpretation. There are environmental factors that may increase the need for cleaning the material, including the orientation of the facade/area, the local microclimate and the prevailing climatic conditions.

For example – a damp warm summer preceding a mild wet winter and a north facing facade/area could encourage algae growth, particularly in the first few years, as the mineral salts washed into the stone as part of the cutting process will provide nutrients on which the algae will feed. These algae may, in turn, cause the steps to become slippery when they are wet. This is only a temporary phenomenon, but the stone can be cleaned and an algae controlling chemical applied if it becomes unsightly.

All porous Limestone's will draw in moisture from surrounding media. Therefore, mineral salts in surrounding media could cause slight staining, particularly during the first two years, but this will fade.

Please take note of the following guidelines to ensure your Portland Stone remains in good condition.

- **Take the time to clean your stone every month or so if it becomes slippery.**

Portland Stone is regarded as being slip resistant, providing it is kept clean. Cleaning the stone will help to prevent the growth of algae and prevent the stone from becoming slippery when it gets wet.

In most cases a weak bleach solution will remove algal growth and surface stains. More stubborn stains may require specialist cleaning. **Do not** use patio cleaner/brick acid to treat heavily soiled areas as this could permanently damage the stone.

- **Do not leave metals or treated wood in contact with the stone for prolonged periods.**

Rust and wood staining oils will leach into the stone and cannot be removed with shop-bought solutions. If you notice either of these stains forming remove the ferrous or stained item from the stone immediately. Please contact us if you require our stain removal service.

- **Avoid spilling oils and other organic substances onto the stone.**

Organic compounds can impregnate the stone and will require specialist removal.

- **Do not treat the stone with salt**

During icy weather use sand to aid grip. Salts may delaminate the stone.

- **Portland stone should not be painted at any time**

In the event of impact damage, if the area is localised and small, it may be appropriate to conduct an on-site repair using a lime-mortar mix or even by piecing in a small section of stone. However, in most instances a replacement stone will be required.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information regarding the upkeep or maintenance of your Portland Stone.




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