

Lithofin Stone Care Systems for New Build: Chinese and Indian Multi-Coloured Slate Flooring

(i) Installation:

It is important to note that most of this type of flooring is relatively hardy and will withstand a reasonable amount of builder's dirt during fixing and laying. However, much of the colour and brightness of the flooring tends to be superficial and, if not suitably protected, may wear off and leave you with just a grey or dark slate finish. To preserve the beauty of this special type of flooring, it must be protected by using a surface sealant that must itself be protected and maintained.

(ii) Cleaning during the fixing process:

Chinese and Indian multi-coloured Slate flooring is generally more hardy than limestone, marble or granite. As its natural constitution lends itself to easy cleaning with an acid solution, any building dirt or leftover reclamation staining may be removed with Lithofin Cement-Away. This is an extremely concentrated compound of acids that can be used both before and after grouting, if necessary. (Dilute to use, and follow the instructions carefully.) If used before grouting, make sure the surface is rinsed well and bone dry before applying the appropriate impregnator.

(iii) Protection:

Make sure the surface is completely clean and dry before applying half the specified quantity of Lithofin Slate-Seal with a roller or a brush. As this material is prone to harbouring grout residues etc., we suggest application of two or more coats of Lithofin Slate-Seal at this stage. (One thick coat would be appropriate but would take a long time to dry, so several thin coats are always preferable.) Leave the surface to dry for four to six hours before grouting.

(iv) Grouting:

Read the grouting instructions carefully. We recommend liberal spreading of the grout covering the whole of the Chinese and Indian Slate flooring as well as filling in the grout joints. This will minimise the 'tramlining' or 'pictureframing' effect that may appear a week or two after installation. Remove excess grout using a solution of Lithofin Cement-Away diluted 1:25 with water. Allow the grouting to dry completely before starting the final sealing process.

(v) Final protection:

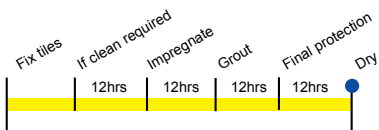
It is important to build up a surface finish to retain the natural beauty and colour of the flooring. Using a roller or thick brush, apply two or three further thin coats of Lithofin Slate-Seal, leaving one or two hours between each coat to dry. As a guideline, Slate-Seal will treat 10m²/L of flooring. As with many types of natural stone, some parts of the surface may be more porous than others. If some areas still appear dull after sealing, more product must be applied to ensure that there is a surface finish over the whole floor.

(vi) Maintenance:

A brand new and correctly sealed floor will have a shiny appearance. This will dull down to an eggshell finish with regular maintenance or wear and tear. It is important to clean the floor regularly, using the correct products, to maintain the finish. For regular cleaning, use pH-neutral products in order not to damage either stone or sealant. We recommend Lithofin Easy-Care for most Chinese and Indian slate flooring. This contains cleaning components as well as enhancing agents that will make the surface richer and more attractive with regular use. Lithofin Easy-Care may be applied with a mop and bucket, however, in larger/heavy-duty areas we strongly recommend use of a Numatic vac or similar to remove the wash water. Do not use maintenance products containing waxes, as these will promote the build-up of false layers, which spoil the floor's appearance in the long term. Remove stubborn marks with Lithofin Wexa, diluted 1:10. The sealant will eventually wear down. How long this takes depends on general wear and tear but as a rule of thumb, refurbishment may well be necessary after two years. Please see the Chinese and Indian multi-coloured slate flooring Refurbishment method statements for details.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE USE OF LITHOFIN PRODUCTS:

1. Suggested drying times



Please note:

these times may be significantly extended, depending on local conditions (seasons, air humidity, room temperature, ventilation, materials used etc.). Humidity measurement of the surface will always provide certainty. It should not exceed 3%.

2. Test area

If no previous experience is available, test the suitability of the product, as well as the processing and the result, in a small area.

3. Information

Always consult the user instructions, and contact us in case of doubt.

This information should be considered informal and non-binding. The products must be used according to local conditions and materials. Where no previous experience is available, or in cases of doubt, test the product in an inconspicuous area.