



## Q-Seal® Natural Stone Installation, Use & Care Instructions

Congratulations on your purchase of Q-Seal Natural Stone. Q-Seal Natural Stone is as easy to care for as ceramic tile – it never needs to be sealed or resealed, makes grout clean-up easier, and there are no harmful chemicals to deal with.

### **Overview**

The top surface of each tile is protected by Q-Seal, a permanent protective sealer that is water, stain and chemical resistant, and features an anti-microbial ingredient that is proven to inhibit the growth of stain and odor-causing mold. Q-Seal is baked into the stone, not painted on like ordinary sealers, so Q-Seal Natural Stone will never need re-sealing.

### **Applications**

- RESIDENTIAL: Q-Seal Natural Stone can be installed in many areas including all interior walls, floors and counters, backsplashes, countertops, bathrooms, and shower enclosures.
- SLIP RESISTANCE: Q-Seal may improve the slip resistance of stone in both dry and wet applications.
- DO NOT use Q-Seal for exterior applications.

\*Q-Seal Natural Stone has specific requirements for installation in commonly/continuously wet areas. These specific requirements are detailed below.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: ALL TILES MUST BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION FOR VISUAL DEFECTS OR NON-CONFORMITIES. INSTALLATION OF TILES THAT HAVE APPARENT VISUAL DEFECTS OR NON-CONFORMITIES WILL VOID THE Q-SEAL FOREVER LIMITED WARRANTY. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTALLATION, USE & CARE INSTRUCTIONS WILL VOID THE Q-SEAL FOREVER LIMITED WARRANTY.**

### **Installation**

Always follow the manufacturer's specific instructions for the preparation, application, and installation of tile setting materials including mortar, thin set, grout, additives, sealants, pre-fabricated systems, etc. Install natural stone in accordance with standards and guidelines as set forth in the *Tile Council of North America (TCNA) Handbook for Ceramic, Glass and Stone Tile Installation*.

#### **Wet Areas:**

- Wet areas include shower floors and wall, bathtub surrounds, and any other commonly and/or continuously wet areas.
- In showers, Q-Seal Natural Stone must be installed using a pre-sloped shower pan system (not a mud bed shower pan). Consult your dealer for the best system for your application.
- TCNA requires that bathtub surrounds and showers are installed in a manner that properly manages water/moisture. Refer to the *TCNA Handbook* for details including material selection and installation of:
  - Backer/bonding substrates including required spacing.
  - Flexible sealant including perimeter movement joints.
  - Drain assembly including methods for preventing clogged weep holes

#### **Grout**

- Stain Resistant Grout: Use of a stain-resistant grout will ensure that the entire installation is protected.
- Grout Hole Fill-In: Q-Seal will allow grout to fill-in holes on the tile surface. For tiles with a high concentration of holes to be filled-in, we recommend a stain-resistant grout so that the entire tile surface is protected.

**Q-SEAL**

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Rev. ECN06.05.13-A



- Grout Release: Grout release is not necessary. Q-Seal makes clean-up simple and easy and protects against grout and mortar staining.
- Grout Sealer: Stone or grout sealer will not damage or compromise Q-Seal. Sealer inadvertently applied can simply be wiped off with a soft cloth. Sealer that is allowed to dry can be carefully removed using rubbing alcohol and a soft rag or sponge. Rinse area clean with water and a sponge.
- DO NOT use Q-Seal Natural Stone in an un-grouted installation as stains and water can penetrate through the unsealed edges of the stone.

#### ***Fabrication***

- Fabricating and cutting the surface of the tile (ex: bullnose, chipping, sawing) could remove Q-Seal in that area. Apply a penetrating, enhancing sealer on the machined or cut edge to protect the exposed area(s).

#### **Stain Resistance**

Q-Seal's stain resistance is superior to other sealers, but it is not stain-proof. Q-Seal protects the tile surface by delaying the penetration of spills, allowing you a reasonable time to clean-up without adverse affects. Independent testing confirms that most food and beverage spills will not leave a permanent stain if cleaned up within 4 hours of contact. However, mustard should be wiped up soon after contact.

#### **Cleaning**

Q-Seal is chemical resistant, so special stone cleaners are not necessary.

- Use a non-abrasive liquid cleaner for everyday use. Always rinse area with water to remove remaining cleaning solution.
- For stubborn stains, soak the area for 10 minutes using a non-abrasive liquid cleaner that contains bleach. Clean area with a wet sponge and then rinse the area with water to remove remaining solutions. Repeat if necessary. Poultice-type cleaning methods can also be used for more difficult stains.
- DO NOT use liquid or powdered abrasive cleaners.
- DO NOT clean with scouring pads, steel wool, or other abrasive implements.
- DO NOT use commercial power cleaning equipment.
- WARNING: Drain and oven cleaners contain caustic chemicals that may damage Q-Seal. In the event of a spill, clean and rinse any affected areas soon after contact.

#### **Abrasion Resistance**

Q-Seal is abrasion resistant, but care must still be taken to prevent surface scratching or chipping. In addition to cautions on the use of abrasive cleaners and implements:

- DO NOT use the tile as a cutting surface. Use a cutting board to protect the tile.
- DO use felt floor protectors on legs of chairs, sofas, tables and other easily moved furniture.

#### **Honed and Filled Stones**

Some stones, in their natural form, have pockets or holes that are filled at the factory or during installation. The fill inside the holes can, on occasion, flake or pop out, leaving a void in your stone. These voids may occasionally require filling with grout or epoxy and/or application of a penetrating, enhancing sealer. Consult your dealer or stone manufacturer for recommendations on honed and filled stone care.

#### **Q-Seal Forever Limited Warranty**

Q-Seal will never need resealing for as long as you own your home. Please contact your dealer or visit [www.q-seal.com](http://www.q-seal.com) for complete warranty information.

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