

Caring for Cast Stone

As with all things, cast stone must be cared for once installed. The following information will provide you with recommended solutions to several areas of care, as well as, provide suggested products to use.

PROSOCO, Inc.

PROSOCO, Inc. is an industry leader specializing in the cleaning and sealing of various types of masonry products, including cast stone. Using samples of Stone Legends cast stone in all three standard colors, PROSOCO has provided laboratory tests and made recommendations as to which of their products, primarily cleaners and sealants, work well with our products (Test results are available upon request).

The following are their recommendations for cast stone care.

New Construction Cleaning

Based on the test results, both cleaners, Sure Klean® Vana Trol® and Sure Klean® Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner, and all dilutions performed well in removing excess mortar smears on the submitted tiles. The cleaners performed well in removing the mortar soils even after the mortar remained on the surface of the tiles for 21 days under ideal curing conditions. Sure Klean® Vana Trol® performed slightly better than Sure Klean® Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner in terms of total mortar removal.

It is also recommended that the selected cleaners be used in the lowest possible concentration, typically a 1:3 dilution for Sure Klean® Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner and 1:8 dilution for Sure Klean® Vana Trol®. They should be rinsed with the lowest pressure of water as practical, garden hose strength preferred. To facilitate easier removal of excess mortar and construction dirt while minimizing any potential adverse affect on the stone, clean within seven days of construction.

PROSOCO, Inc.

Recognized nationally, PROSOCO has factory representatives available throughout the USA, who provide complimentary job site assistance and advice regarding the care and cleaning of stone. For information on how to contact PROSOCO, Inc., call Stone Legends at 1(800) 398-1199.

Surface Alterations

Both dilutions of Sure Klean® Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner and Sure Klean® Vana Trol® tested were effective in removing excess mortar and dirt from the cast stone tiles submitted for testing. The most appropriate cleaner and dilution should be determined on the specific job site, and will be dependent primarily on the nature and severity of soiling present at that location.

Protective Water Repellents

Based on test results, all of the treatments can be recommended for job site testing on all of the cast stone tiles. For added stain repellency, Stand Off® Stone, Tile & Masonry Protector and Stand Off® Limestone & Marble Protector are recommended.

Apply all products in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation provided on container labels and product data sheets. Testing should be conducted on site to determine the most appropriate water repellent product and procedures for a particular project. See product literature for additional application and product information.

Protective Stain Repellents

Based on test results, Stand Off® Stone, Tile & Masonry Protector and Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard can be recommended for use. For the best beading characteristics, Stand Off® Stone, Tile & Masonry Protector is recommended. For slight color enhancement and slight gloss, Stand Off® Gloss 'N Guard is recommended.

Apply all products in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation provided on container labels and product data sheets. On site testing should always be conducted to determine the most appropriate stain repellent and procedures for a particular project.



Stone Legends Recommendations

Following are some other recommendations from Stone Legends. Consider these the post-construction final punchout.

Cleaning Cast Stone

After installation, we recommend cleaning the stone with a solution of muriatic acid and water (75% water), or with CERTOL's Acid Magic product, or with one of the cleaners from PROSOCO discussed on the previous page.

When using the muriatic acid solution, cover areas that can be damaged. Wear rubber gloves and safety goggles. Work on a small area at a time. Wet the stone with clear water first. This is very important so you do not etch the surface of the stone. Apply acid solution and let sit for a minute. Rub stubborn stains with a soft brush. **Do not use a metal brush.** Rinse with clear water. This should get rid of stains, smudges and some mortar splashes. Repeat application for stubborn stains. Cast stone will take several days to dry evenly.

For the PROSOCO products, follow label directions.



To Remove:

Mortar

Use acid based proprietary cleaners, such as Sure Klean® Vana Trol®

Paint

Use either a methylene chloride or non-methylene chloride masonry paint stripper such as PROSOCO Safety Peel

Food / Beverage

Use a ph neutral non-acidic cleaner such as PROSOCO – Rinse-less Cleaner

Copper / Metallic Stains

Use a phosphoric acid based cleaner such as PROSOCO Light Duty Concrete Cleaner.

Mold / Mildew / Algae

Use a product containing a biocide to kill the mold spore such as PROSOCO – BioKlean®
Household bleach is effective but difficult to remove from the stone.

Oil / Tar / Grease

Using a non-acidic cleaner / degreaser such as PROSOCO Asphalt & Tar Remover, Fast Acting Stripper, Degreaser. Remove heavy build up by scraping prior to application of chemical cleanser.

For best results in all cleaning, follow the directions on the label and use a hot or warm water rinse with pressure not exceeding 1000 lbs.

Sealers

Unless you want a specific look, cast stone does not need a finish or sealer. Some like to seal it to make future cleaning easier (only a soft brush and water).

To protect your stone from the elements, we recommend PROSOCO's Weather Seal PD or ChemProbe's Prime-A-Pell®.

To protect your stone from staining, we recommend a siloxane based repellent, such as PROSOCO Stand Off® Limestone and Marble Protector.

If you plan to seal, please do so after installation and cleaning and allow the stone to dry before applying any sealer.

For information about PROSOCO, Inc. and ChemProbe, Inc., contact the Stone Legends sales staff at 1-800-398-1199.

Smoke Protection

We recommend a water-based product that provides excellent protection such as Lambert Southwest's DecoSeal. (DecoSeal will slightly darken the stone but does allow easy wipe down of stone products).

Patching Cast Stone

The following is a basic four step process for patching you cast stone product.

1. Crush extra stone to a fine powder with hammer. It is necessary to pulverize the sands to refine the patch.
2. Mix one (1) part adhesive with two (parts) sand or stone powder. Add small amounts of water until a stiff paste develops. Be sure to use very small amounts of water at a time!
3. Slightly dampen stone in patch area. Apply sand/adhesive paste with putty knife. Sculpt with edge of a stainless steel tool to match adjacent stone.
4. Repeat if necessary.
5. After fully dried, it may require a very light acid wash. Be sure to rinse thoroughly to neutralize the acid.



Wear rubber gloves to protect your skin from the cleaners.