

Information and maintenance instructions for marble/travertine – Handling and maintenance of parts made of marble and travertine –

1 GENERAL

Marble is a carbonate rock, composed of the minerals calcite, dolomite or aragonite. Since antiquity, it has been highly regarded as a material for architecture and sculpture. The special characteristic of marble lies in its crystalline sparkle; its colour range extends from white, soft pastel shades to a blackish colour in a few types. Travertine, which is also known as *Tufa*, is also classified in the group of limestones. Travertine is porous and has a foam-like structure. Travertines are usually beige or brick red in colour. Because of the open-pored stone surface, travertine is mostly impregnated in advance.

2 PRE-REQUISITES

Please adhere to the following requirements in order to achieve a long-lasting durability of all parts made of marble and travertine:

- Keep the surfaces clean. Avoid residues of foodstuffs, spices and cleaning agents;
- Ensure that the surfaces remain undamaged. Avoid damage while cleaning or during use or repairs that may be caused by sharp-edged objects;
- Marble and travertine are soft stones and may develop scratches more easily in comparison to granite. If you are using ceramic crockery with edges that may damage the stone, please use coasters as a preventive measure;
- Acids of all types (e. g. juices, wine, carbon dioxide, acidic cleaning agents) corrode the surface of the stone, and may also dissolve the limestone in the event of strong exposure, hence damaging the protective layer.

NOTE | All natural stones absorb liquids because of their crystalline structure and then release them again through the process of evaporation. For this reason, water might temporarily create dark spots.

3 CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Appropriate maintenance is another important step for achieving a long-lasting durability of your marble and travertine. Please read the following cleaning and maintenance instructions carefully:

3.1 TREATMENT FOR PROTECTION

We recommend that marble and travertine be soaked with AKEMI stone impregnation solution (water-repellent) or AKEMI Anti-Fleck (water-, grease- and oil-repellent). However, this treatment does not provide any sealing and no layer is formed on the hard rock. The special properties of marble and travertine are preserved entirely, the stone retains its breathability. As a result of this treatment, the stone assumes oil- and grease-repellent qualities and is also protected to a large extent against spots; or even if spots appear, they can be cleaned easily after the impregnation. Ensure that oils, grease, colourants (e. g. beetroot, grape juice, berries) and impurities (e. g. residues of spices, cleaning agents) do not remain on the surface. Wipe off this spillage as quickly as possible.

TIP | Regular impregnation can optimise this effect. Depending upon the usage, we recommend that the process of impregnation be repeated three to four times every year.

3.2 REGULAR MAINTENANCE

Clean the marble and travertine parts ideally with warm water using a suitable cleaning agent. It is recommended that the warm washing water be mixed with one dosage of AKEMI stone soap. Besides cleaning, essential care substances are also supplied to the stone. This increases the resistance of the stone and keeps it in good condition. Occasionally, treat the surface with AKEMI stone care agent, no. 10 CFC-free. The additional care helps the process of impregnation and provides fresh shine. Avoid using strong grease-dissolving all-purpose cleaners or soft soaps. They leach the stone, generate residues and hence promote soiling. Even scouring powders, foam abrasives, scourers etc. may cause damage.

NOTE | The cleaning agents used must be approved for the food industry. The above mentioned products are harmless and can be used in the food industry. This is confirmed in the analysis reports by the Research and Material Testing Organisation Baden-Württemberg. The following applies to all cleaning agents: Before use, always test the cleaning agent on a small inconspicuous area to check if the cleaning product you have opted for has the desired effect.

PLEASE NOTE | The maintenance/cleaning instructions are based on many years of experience and conform to the state-of-the-art cleaning technology, so far known by the manufacturer at the time of manufacture. No liability will be accepted for completeness, correctness and usability. In addition to these instructions, the instructions of the manufacturer of the corresponding cleaning agent used must be taken into account.