

LIMESTONE

CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

HARDSCAPES & MASONRY



Thank you for choosing Polycor products for your project! Polycor natural stone products are virtually maintenance free and when properly maintained, will provide long-term performance for generations to come.

MAINTENANCE

Limestone surfaces should be kept free of debris and soiling by periodically sweeping or by using a mechanical blower on the surface. The ideal in maintaining exterior hardscaping is to wash it at periodic intervals (at least annually, depending on atmospheric conditions) by hosing down the areas with clean water. This will prevent accumulation of dirt and impurities.

CLEANING

Begin with a simple solution of mild detergent and water and scrub the surface with a soft bristle brush. Rinse with clean water to remove remaining cleaning solution. If more stubborn soiling exists use an approved stone cleaner or pH neutral cleaner approved for limestone. Never use wire brushes, acidic cleaners, bleach, paint remover or any other type of concrete cleaner. Some stone cleaners also contain small amounts of sealer. These products help to maintain the level of protection. Brushes may be necessary for the removal of certain surface impurities. Soft fiber bristle brushes are recommended.

When dirt has accumulated on older surfaces over an extended period of time, a combination of methods may be necessary to properly clean the limestone. A plain water jet, from a power washer, will typically remove most accumulation. Adjust the pressure on the machine accordingly and do not exceed 1,200 Psi, from a 45-degree fan-shaped nozzle, holding the tip no closer than 6" to the face of the stone. No chemicals should be used that could be harmful to the limestone. Note, however, that even high-pressure water can cause damage. Proper pressure, nozzle size and working distance should be maintained consistently during the process.



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One type of accumulation that can occur on limestone, marble, concrete and other calcareous materials is algae. At arm's length, this material appears to be simply a collection of dirt that is affected by water flow over the surface. This material can be removed by using diluted hydrogen peroxide (1/2 cup in a gallon of water) or if necessary, scrubbed on full strength over the wetted limestone. After agitation with a soft bristle brush, loosened algae can be hosed away without harm to the stone surfaces. Test a small, inconspicuous area first to gauge results.

Avoid direct contact with oil-based materials and metals prone to rusting such as iron, copper or bronze. In most outdoor applications, with the sources removed, normal sun and rain action will generally remove most stains.

PROTECTIVE COATINGS

To prolong the aesthetic beauty of the original installation, it may be decided to apply a sealer coating to the limestone surfaces. While it is not a requirement to seal Polycor natural stone, a sealer application may aid in cleaning the surface should it become dirty. Test in an inconspicuous area first before applying, and use in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

EFFLORESCENCE

As with many masonry products, it is possible that efflorescence may occur on the limestone surface. This is typically caused by water carrying soluble salts from below the surface up to the face of the stone. The salts are deposited and recrystallize upon evaporation of the water, leaving a powdery, white salt residue. If the installation is new, brush or blow the powder from the surface with a blower. Repeat as necessary as the stone dries out. Do not use water to remove the powder. Efflorescence will disappear naturally over time, provided that the moisture source is eliminated or controlled. If the residue will not wash off, do not apply chemicals or cleaners to the stone.

For additional information regarding care and maintenance of limestone, consult the Indiana Limestone Handbook, published by the Indiana Limestone Institute of America, Inc. or visit ilii.com

This guide offers an organized collection of information or a series of options and is not intended as a specific course of action. This document cannot replace education or experience and should be used in conjunction with professional judgment. Not all aspects of this guide may be applicable in all circumstances.



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INDIANA LIMESTONE - FULL COLOR BLEND™
Pavers, pool coping, Berkshire™ veneer and landscape steps

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