

Brazilian Honed and Brushed Slate

Sealing and scratch repair guide

Slate in all its forms, albeit a hard natural stone, is susceptible to scratching. Whether it be from impact damage to small amounts of dirt or grit stuck to the bottom of your shoe, there is a high chance a slate floor will obtain scratches at some point in its life time. However, with the honed and brushed variations it is much more visible due to their smooth finish.

Having tried several methods of sealing and scratch repair, the following products and technique is the most effective for this type of stone. It will outline the method to seal and repair both minor surface marks to much deeper scratches.

What you will need:

LTP Grimex

LTP Stone Oil

White Emulsifying Pad

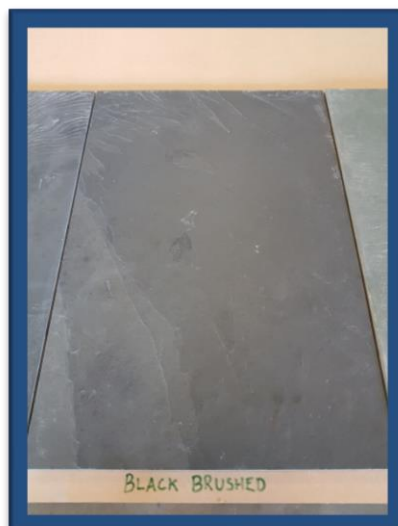
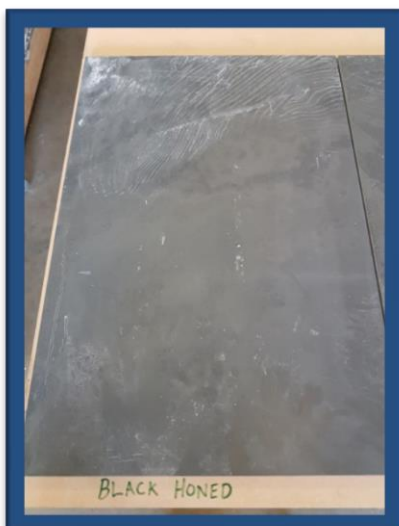
Sponge

Microfiber Cloths

Paint Brush

200/240, 400, 600 grit Wet and Dry sand paper with a sanding pad or diamond polishing pads

I have used 600x400 Honed Black and Green slate and the Black Brushed. The pieces were taken from the stock crates and they all contain some of the minor imperfections that are normal with these products, such as cutting and packing dust and slight transit/movement scratches (some additional scratches have been added for the purpose of this guide).



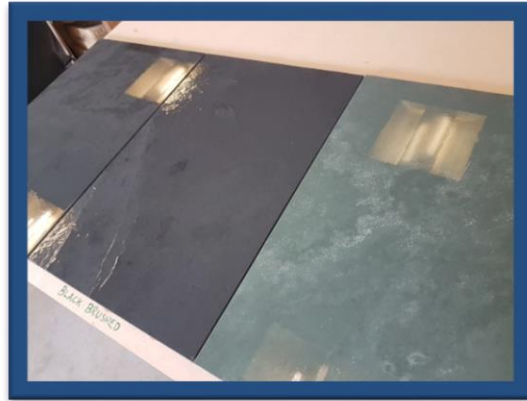
Step 1: Initial Clean

Either before or after fixing, the tiles must be intensively cleaned before any sealer can be applied. The dust you will find on the face of the tile is normally the residue from when the tiles are cut and honed during the manufacturing process.

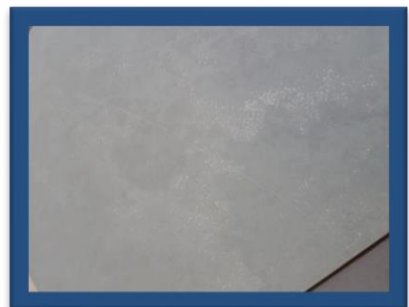
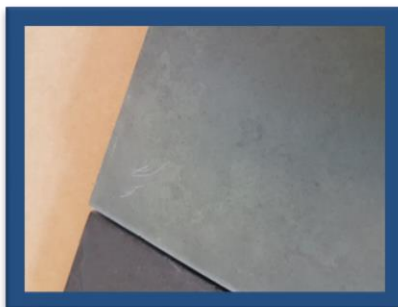
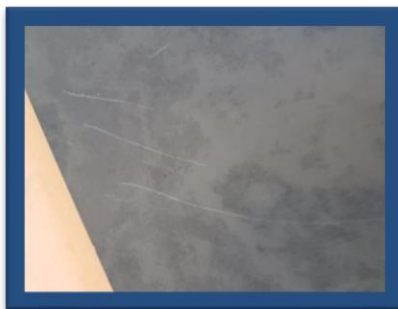
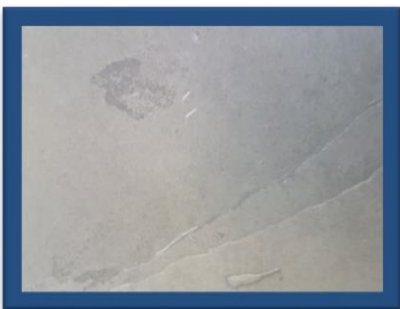
A: With a solution of the LTP Grimex (mixed at a ratio of 1:5 with warm water) and a White emulsifying pad, scrub the tiles to ensure all dirt is removed.



B: Using clean water and a mop/sponge, rinse and remove any excess moisture.



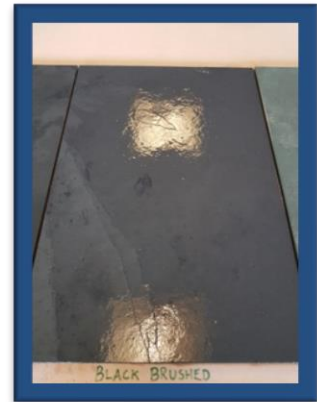
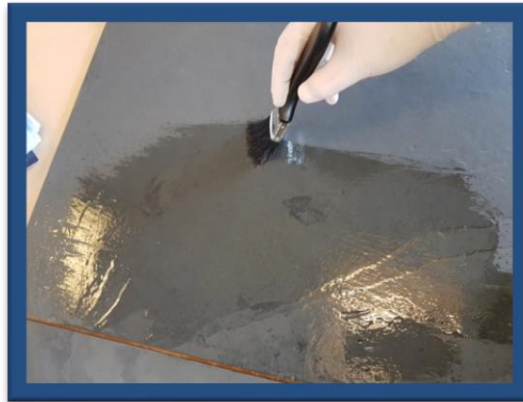
C: Leave to thoroughly dry for 24 hours. Once the tiles have dried, you will notice that minor scratches from the manufacturing dust rubbing against the tile will now be visible. But this is nothing to worry about as they will not be visible once the sealing is complete.



Step 2: Sealing

Natural Slate is porous and requires sealing to prevent grout residue penetrating the tile, and to prevent staining in normal use.

A: Apply the LTP Stone Oil liberally over the tiles using a paint brush. Once the tile is fully saturated, leave for 1 hour to impregnate the surface.

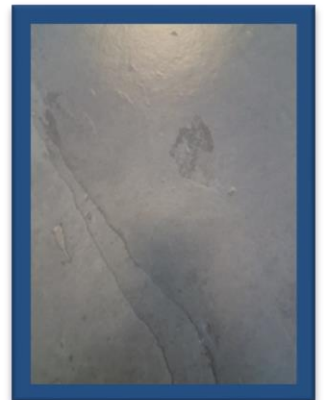
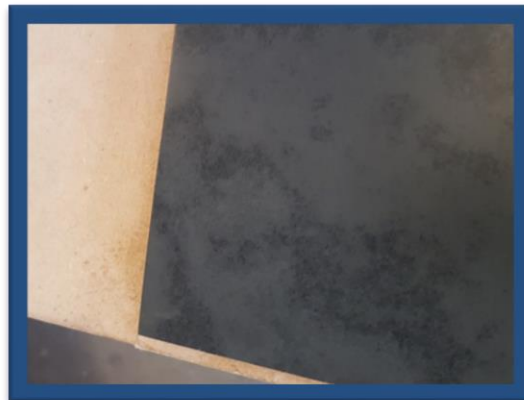


B: After an hour, remove any excess sealer that remains and buff with a microfiber cloth. Tiles should be left for a further 12 hours before applying the grout.



The benefits of using the stone oil as opposed to standard, clear synthetic sealers are:

- It significantly enriches the colour of the stone
- Once fully cured, increases the mechanical strength of the tile and its ability to resist minor scratches
- It covers surface abrasions and blends them into the surface



Additional Notes:

LTP Ironwax surface sealer can be applied after grouting to add a sheen and offer additional stain protection.
LTP Waxwash is recommended for regular cleaning and maintenance to add longevity to the tile and sealer.

Step 3: Minor scratch removal

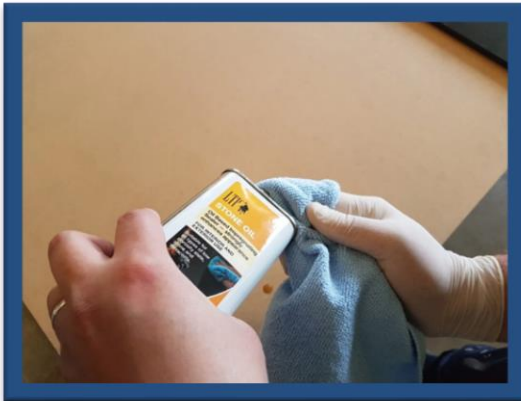
(Single line created by a Stanley Knife)

In the event that the tiles are scratched due to something being dropped on them, or just general wear and tear, the marks can be blended back in by a further application of the Stone Oil to the affected area.

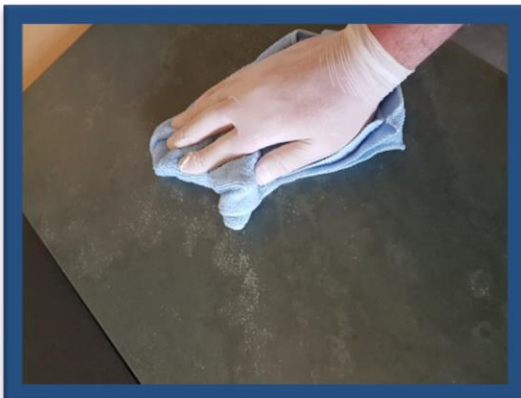
A: Make sure the scratch is dust free by wiping with a dry cloth.



B: Apply just enough of the LTP Stone oil to a clean cloth and gradually work into the affected area.



C: Leave for an hour to settle, and then buff any excess oil off with a clean microfiber cloth until dry. The surface scratch should no longer be visible.



Step 4: Deep Scratch Removal

(4 lines cut much deeper with a Stanley Knife)

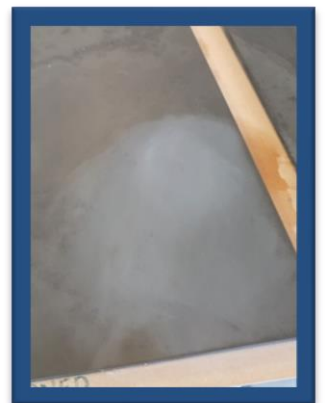
Deeper scratches can still be very noticeable, even after the stone oil has been applied, depending on the slate shade variations and lighting. Therefore we need to make it completely smooth to get the finish exactly the same of the remainder of the tile.



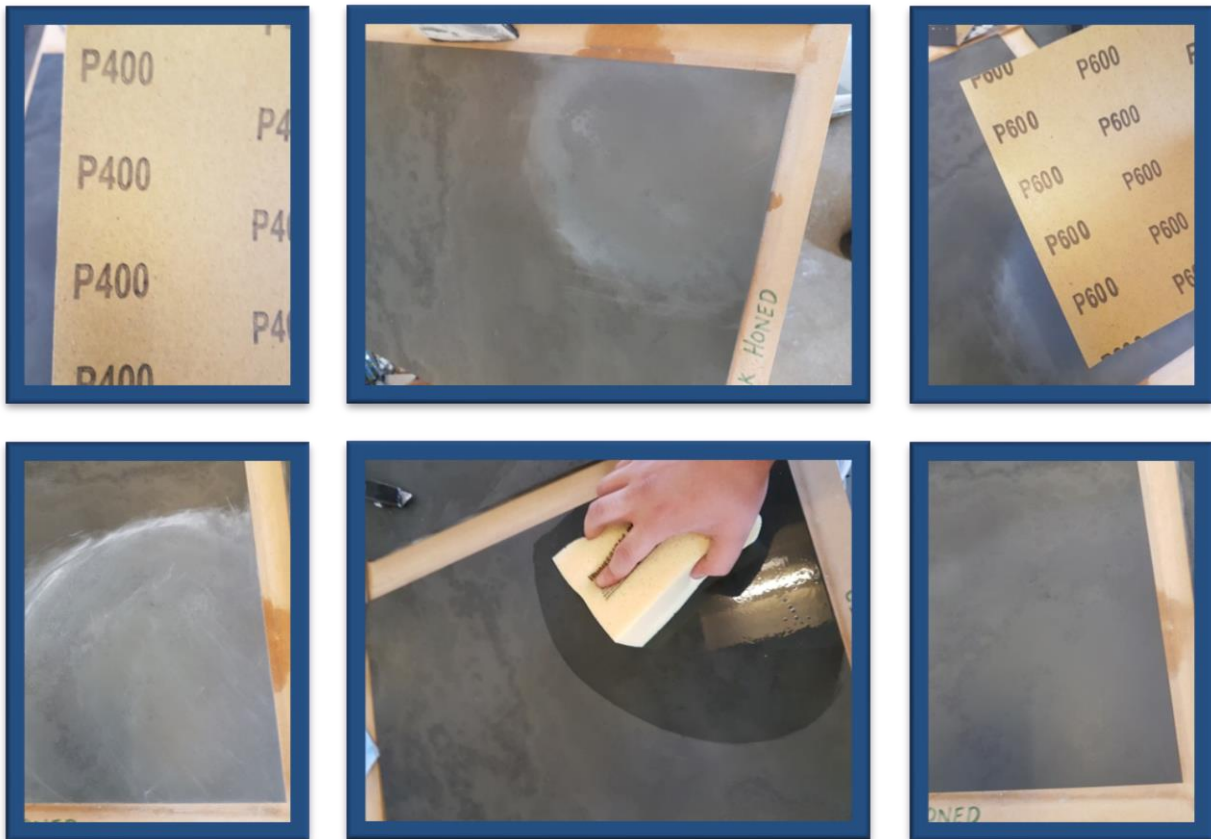
A: Wash the scratches with clean water. You can allow the tile to dry but the following process can be done while the surface is still damp.



B: Starting with the coarser grit paper (240, although lower grits of around 100 can be used for deeper blemishes or quicker stock removal), sand the scratches and the surrounding area in a circular motion, until the scratch is no longer visible.



C: With the scratch removed, the affected area will need polishing to the same finish as the remainder of the tile. This can be done by going up through the finer grit papers up to 600, until a uniform texture has been achieved. Wash the tile with a sponge and clean water. Leave to sufficiently dry for 2 hours.



D: To finish, not only does the texture need to be uniform, but so does the colour. Therefore we need to use the LTP Stone Oil that the tile was originally sealed with, to bring the affected area back to the correct colour. Apply just enough of the LTP Stone oil to a dry cloth and gradually work into the affected area and leave for 1 hour. Remove the excess and buff to a finish. There will be no sign of a scratch ever being present.

