

# INSTALLATION TIPS STEPPING STONES



## **DISCLAIMER**

Please note, all the information provided in this document should only be used as a guide at the time of installation for trade practices only.

All information offered is in conjunction with site-specific factors. Kindly note, the guide and the provided instructions are not intended to replace any expert contractors' or consultants' advice or the applicable manufacturer's technical data sheet or suggested application method.

Any information in this document may be changed, deleted, or otherwise modified by Stone Centre without prior notice basis business requirements.

## **PRODUCT CONSIDERATIONS**

Stone Centre's range of Stepping Stones are made of Natural Stone material and has the markings of thousands of years of formation and goes through extreme climatic and weather conditions with oxides, sands, and rich minerals from the earth and the sea. Upon installation, the look of the Stepping Stones varies from the original sample and from piece to piece. No two pieces of Stepping Stones will be identical, as with any natural substance. There will be variations in the color, proportion, size, and shape of the markings. Variation is not a significant defect. We try our best to supply premium quality Stepping Stones.

It is normal to anticipate some degree of dimension and thickness tolerance. Samples should only be used as a guide for shade and colour. Stone Centre advises you to evaluate the product at the time of delivery to make sure the stone's colour and other qualities are as per your expectations. During installation, always ensure to combine pavers and tiles equally from all crates.

Minor scuffing and marks are not regarded as structural defects. Kindly notify Stone Centre Team before the installation, if there is any noticeable severe chipping or thickness variance in the provided product, if any. The product is accepted before installation only.

## **THICKNESS/SIZE CONSIDERATIONS**

The Buyer should keep in mind, some 1st-grade stepping stones may be slightly chipped and/or broken. These imperfections can be used as cuts/infill. All stone pavers and tiles may vary in dimensions by +/-2mm when sawn cut and the thickness may vary by +/-3mm. respectively.

## **STORAGE**

The product should ideally be kept indoors, away from rain and direct sunlight. Kindly avoid stacking crates on top of one another.

## **DRAINAGE**

Drainage is essential for maintaining the installation's durability and reducing efflorescence, and subgrade softening. Australian Standards specify that there must be a minimum surface cross-fall to adequate drainage sites. To discuss suitable drainage systems for your project, please get in touch with your installer.

## **SCREED AND BONDING SLURRY**

Where a screed bed will be installed, permit the concreted base to cure for the time recommended by the manufacturer. An approved cement-based slurry finish must be used to bond the screed to the concrete substrate.

The relevant Australian Standards and manufacturer requirements must be followed while creating sand mixtures and applying them.

## **WATERPROOFING**

Prior to installation, drainage design and waterproofing should be considered as part of a larger "moisture management strategy." Prior to installing the tiles, we advise covering the substrate (preferably the bedding screed) with a waterproofing product or membrane to help prevent efflorescence and other moisture-related problems.

## **SEALING**

It is evident to seal all natural stone products. Sealing increases the stone's durability and maintains the aesthetics of the stone for a longer time. Stone Centre recommends dip-sealing all our products before installation. Make sure that the pre-sealing product you use is compatible with the tile adhesive you've chosen.

There is continuous research and development of sealers and there are many sealing products available in the market. We recommend connecting with your installer to select the best sealer for the natural stone.

## **WEATHER CONSIDERATION**

If you are expecting rain or expecting bad weather, avoid installing the Stepping Stones.

When laying stones, on hot days (over 30°C), might lead to delamination problems between the stone and the adhesive bedding layer.

## **CUTTING**

Cutting should ideally be done with a bench saw equipped with a wet diamond blade. To prevent cutting paste from drying and damaging the stone's surface, it should be cleansed as soon as it is cut.

Crystalline Silica (Silica dust) is a typical mineral present in soil, sand and stone. Additionally, it is used in the production of materials including bricks, tiles, concrete, and faux stone. When using power tools to cut, grind, and drill such materials, safety gear should be worn because exposure to silica can result in several health problems. On the job site, the correct safety precautions for silica exposure should be followed.

## **LAYING TECHNIQUE**

Clean and dampen the concrete or sand bed before laying the stones.

Measure an equal amount of distance either side of your step stones or pavers. Create a sting line.

Apply a uniform layer of the bonding slurry compound to the concrete where the mortar will be applied (1-2mm thick).

Place the mortar mixture over the concrete and the paste that will be used to hold the stone in place. The mortar bed should be 30 mm thick, evenly distributed, and without any voids.

Before laying the stone, remove all loose material from the back.

The back of the stone should be evenly coated with the bonding slurry compound (1-2mm thick).

Use a rubber mallet to gently tap the stone into place. A white rubber mallet is preferred to prevent product marking. To prevent the stone's adhesion from failing or the product from being adequately supported, it is crucial to make sure there are no air spaces under the product.

To the desired depth, tap the stone. At 7–10mm intervals, consistent open joints should be permitted.

Fill up any gaps with a trowel, take out any extra mortar, and throw it away.

Using a clean sponge and clean water, remove all extra material from the stone's surface. To avoid marking the product, it is crucial to operate as neatly as possible.

Avoid spreading too much mortar, since it can start to dry before you finish the stone has been set. Work in small, controlled areas.

## **ANTI-SLIP TREATMENT**

Depending on where your tiles are being installed and other site factors, you should think about anti-slip solutions. If you need advice on the anti-slip treatment, please contact your installer.

## **CLEANING**

Once the grouting substance has dried, clean the stone. Any grouting residue can be removed through cleaning. Sweep any extra dirt off the surface.

Apply a pH-neutral cleanser liberally and in manageable areas to the surface.

Gently scrub the surface with a nylon pad (such as Doodlebug from 3M) or a stiff broom.

Use a wet-vac or squeegee to remove any residue from the surface.

To get the finest results, hiring a professional cleaner and sealer may be appropriate. It is important not to use any acidic cleaners.

## **POST INSTALLATION SEALING**

For preserving the durability and aesthetic appeal of all Natural Stone products, Stone Centre suggests post-installation sealing. Always carefully adhere to manufacturer directions to get the best results for the stone's appearance and protection. Please contact your installer for further details on the best sealing recommendations.

## **POST INSTALLATION MAINTENANCE**

Over time, all products will need some sort of upkeep, which will vary from surface to surface and be greatly influenced by use, location, and product type. Cleaning alone or a combination of cleaning and sealing may be required depending on the product type and maintenance requirements.

## **ACCEPTABLE CHARACTERISTICS**

Stepping Stones being made of natural stones is a naturally occurring material, therefore there may be variations in colour and/or surface finish. The user oversees inspecting the tiles before laying them. Small scratches and chips are not flaws because they are not structurally sound. A warranty claim may be made for any tile that exhibits significant chipping or variation in thickness and dimension before installation.

# STONE CENTRE

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