

# CHIMAY LIMESTONE

## INSTALLATION, CLEANING & CARE GUIDE

### Natural Limestone - Sandblasted & Brushed (Antique) Finish

Chimay Limestone is a natural limestone. Variation in color, tone, grain, texture, fossil markings, small pits, open pores and other naturally occurring features should be expected. These are inherent characteristics of natural stone.

### ABOUT THE FINISH

The sandblasted and brushed process creates a softly textured, aged surface and exposes the natural grain. Slight differences in texture, small pits, irregular edges, open pores and occasional loose surface particles may occur and are consistent with the intended antique appearance.

### IMPORTANT - DO NOT ACID CLEAN

**Never use acid-based grout haze removers, acid washes, vinegar, citrus cleaners, muriatic/hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid, sulfamic acid, lime-scale removers or other acidic products. Acid can chemically attack limestone and permanently alter or damage its surface.**

### SETTING MATERIALS & GROUT

**Setting Material:** Use a premium white polymer-modified setting mortar specifically approved by the mortar manufacturer for natural limestone and appropriate for the tile size, substrate and application. For large-format stone, use a mortar rated for large and heavy tile (LHT).

**Grout:** A high-performance cementitious grout suitable for natural stone is recommended. Use caution with heavily pigmented grouts, which may lodge in the open texture or affect the appearance of the stone. Epoxy grout should not be considered the default choice; if used, confirm suitability for natural limestone and test first.

**Pre-Sealing:** We recommend applying an appropriate penetrating limestone sealer before grouting. Pre-sealing can help reduce grout pigment absorption and assist with grout cleanup. Follow the sealer manufacturer's instructions and test first.

**Grout Cleanup:** Remove grout residue during installation using clean water, appropriate sponges and cleaning methods approved by the grout manufacturer for natural limestone. Do not allow grout haze to cure with the expectation that it can later be removed with an acidic grout-haze remover. Acidic grout cleaners must not be used on Chimay Limestone.

### INSTALLATION & POST-INSTALLATION CLEANING

Chimay Limestone must be installed using methods and products appropriate for natural limestone. Protect the stone during construction and prevent mortar, grout, paint and other construction materials from remaining on the surface.

- Do not acid wash to remove grout haze or construction residue.
- Do not assume a cleaner safe for porcelain or ceramic tile is safe for limestone.
- Use only products specifically identified by their manufacturer as suitable for limestone.
- Test grout, cleaners, sealers and treatments on spare material or an inconspicuous area before full application.

### SEALING

Chimay Limestone is porous and should be protected with a high-quality penetrating sealer recommended for limestone. Follow the sealer manufacturer's instructions. The stone should be clean and sufficiently dry before sealing. Periodic resealing may be required depending on traffic, exposure and the product used.

### ROUTINE CLEANING

- Sweep, vacuum or dust-mop regularly to remove grit and abrasive particles.
- Clean with warm water and a pH-neutral cleaner formulated for natural stone/limestone.
- Use a soft mop, cloth or soft nylon brush; avoid aggressive pads and abrasive powders.
- Wipe spills promptly. Rinse when required and do not leave cleaning residue on the surface.

### PRODUCTS TO AVOID

| DO NOT USE                                     | WHY                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vinegar, lemon/citrus or acidic cleaners       | Can etch and chemically attack limestone.                  |
| Acid grout-haze removers or acid washes        | Can permanently alter the stone surface.                   |
| Muriatic, phosphoric or sulfamic acid products | Not appropriate for limestone.                             |
| Harsh alkaline/caustic or abrasive cleaners    | May damage or alter the finish.                            |
| Unapproved topical coatings or treatments      | May change appearance or interfere with moisture movement. |

### BEFORE USING ANY NEW PRODUCT

Always test first. Apply any cleaner, sealer, enhancer or maintenance product to a spare piece or small inconspicuous area and allow it to dry completely before treating the full installation.

Natural Stone Notice: Samples are representative only and cannot show the full range of natural variation. Proper installation, sealing and maintenance are essential to preserving appearance and performance.

MLW Surfaces | Installation & Care Information