

UNDERSTANDING

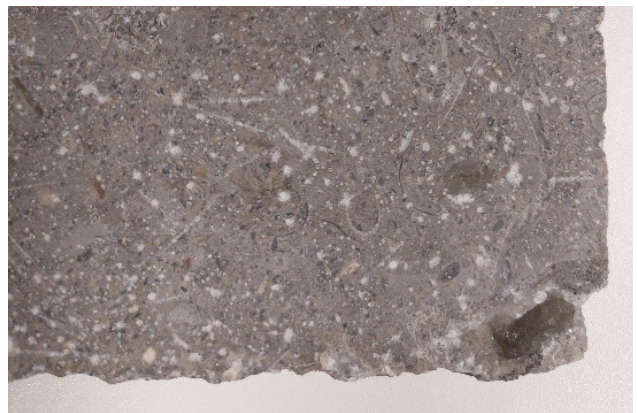
AQUITAINE LIMESTONE INSTALLATION

Beautifully rustic with stylish grey tones, this vintage looking limestone is perfect for urban and country design schemes. This unique French limestone gives a beautiful and authentic floor, that will last for generations; provided adequate care is undertaken in the installation and maintenance.

Upon delivery, you may notice that the surface of the tile is deeply pitted in places. This is completely natural, and is an unavoidable part of the material, caused by the partial mineralization and crystallisation of fossil remnants (in

places this will show as white crystals) as well as by moulds/ casts created by long-decayed fossils of soft-bodied sea animals. This really speaks to the authentic age and natural creation of this material millions of years ago, on the seabed of a warm, shallow, prehistoric ocean that covered much of what became Great Britain and France.

To get the best result, storage, laying, grouting, and sealing are especially important, since this stone is more prone to water staining, and is naturally pitted.



Images of surface cavities and crystalline mineralized fossils

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It is important that the material is stored out of humidity or rain, as this can encourage staining.

Make sure that the adhesive used is a natural stone friendly adhesive, and preferably a rapid or semi-rapid set as this will lessen the extent of any water absorption through the stone which can lead to staining. We would recommend our Sarsen Home Premium Semi-Rapid adhesive, or a similar product. Leave to fully dry before continuing, this may take up to two days in cold or humid environments.

Once the stone is fully dry, apply a primary coat of Stone Essentials Stain Block or Stain Block Eco.

The grouting of the stone should not take place until approximately 12 to 24 hours after the stone tile has been sealed, to allow the sealer time to dry. Sealer will reduce the porosity of the tiles and discourage 'picture-framing' or edge-staining which can occur during the grouting process. We recommend using our own stone friendly Resin-Cement Grout, or Ardex natural stone grouts. Make sure to follow the manufacturers' recommendations when mixing up the grout.

The best method used to fill the joints between the stone and also surface is slurry grouting – spread the grout across the whole face of the stone tiles, working the grout into the joints using a grout float/squeegee. Slurry grouting will fill in any holes in the surface of tiles that the crystal areas and the cast fossils cause.

Remove any excess grout. It is important to note that only a manageable area should be grouted at a time, to enable surplus grout to be removed before it dries. Clean the grouted area using a wet grout sponge, wipe several times, rinsing thoroughly between wipes. Take care not to wash too much grout away as this will leave the grout areas slightly recessed.

On completion of the grouting, the stone floor should be wiped over again to ensure that all grout residue has been removed. Once the grout has dried, the stone tiles should be buffed or polished with a clean, dry cloth to remove the 'bloom' (a dusty, cloudy residue left by the grout). If there is still any excess grout on the surface of the tile after it has been cleaned, use our Cement, Grout and Salt Residue Remover to remove tough areas of grout build-up.



Before Grouting



After Grouting