



## **Care & Routine Maintenance**

Rubber Stone surfacing has many benefits when installed correctly, and we want you to be able to take advantage of those benefits as long as you own the product. However, that means you need to keep your Rubber Stone surfacing as near to installation-quality as possible. The presence of foreign objects and deposits such as tree sap, chewing gum, bird droppings, tar, urine, gasoline, oil, grease, and other products can have a permanent impact on your surface, so prompt maintenance is important. The following guidelines will help you keep your Rubber Stone surface in peak condition for years to come!

### **Keep Loose Debris Off the Surface:**

Loose debris such as sand, dirt, and stones on top of the surface can produce slip hazards, as well as increase wear & tear on the surface and shorten its life. Fine particles can also accumulate in pores of your Rubber Stone surface and prevent the surface from draining properly, as can matting materials such as leaf-litter. We recommend that loose debris be removed on a regular basis. A dry sweep or scrub will remove surface debris, but it can also force material into the pores of the Rubber Stone. The best method of cleaning is using a vacuum, although a high-pressure washer (with a maximum pressure of 1500 psi) may also be used with appropriate caution.

### **How Remove Bird Droppings or Other Excrement:**

To remove bird droppings and other excrement from your Rubber Stone surface, scrub deposits with dampened Bon Ami™, Borax™ or STPP, then rinse with a Borax™ or STPP solution. Remaining residue should be soaked-up using disposable cloths, and then the area must be disinfected. Disinfect by spraying hydrogen peroxide on the affected area, and let stand for at least 2 minutes. Then spray the area with vinegar and let it stand for an additional 2 minutes. Remaining residue should be soaked-up with disposable cloths and the area double-rinsed with clean water.

### **Try to Remove Stains Promptly**

Your Rubber Stone surface can be stained (if left on there for a long period of time) by a variety of different sources and substances, and it's important to remove stains promptly to prevent the stain from becoming permanent. Treatments for the most common stains are listed below.

#### **Blood Stains**

Blood stains must be disinfected by spraying hydrogen peroxide on the affected area, then let stand for at least 2 minutes. Then spray again with vinegar and let stand for an additional 2 minutes. Any remaining residue must be soaked-up with disposable cloths, and the affected area double-rinsed with clean water.

#### **Chewing Gum**

To remove chewing gum, apply dry ice to freeze the gum, then chip it from the surface and remove it. DO NOT use a "HOT spot" steam unit, as this will cause damage to the surface.

## **Grass Stains**

For grass stain removal apply orange oil cleaner and scrub the area with a medium bristled brush. Soak up the solution with a disposable cloth, and double-rinse with clean water.

## **Scuff Marks**

Scrub the affected area with dampened Bon Ami™, Borax™, or STPP; then double-rinse with clean water.

## **Tar / Crayon / Lipstick / Tree Sap / Motor Oil / Grease**

For the tough stains listed above apply one or more of the following: orange oil cleaner, Goop™, or Formula 409™. Scrub with a medium bristled brush and soak up the remaining cleaner with disposable cloths. Then, scrub the area with dampened Bon Ami™, Borax™ or STPP and double-rinse with clean water.

**Clean-Up Spills as Soon as Possible!** Although spills often don't appear to be as harsh as stains, the porous nature of your Rubber Stone surface means they need to be given prompt attention. Some spills could breed bacteria if they are ignored. Below are some helpful tips for dealing with some of the more common spills.

## **Soda or Juice**

For spills from juice and soda or other carbonated products, saturate the area with Formula 409™. Scrub the area with a medium-bristle brush and soak up the remaining solution with disposable cloths. Then, wash with a liquid detergent, Borax™ or STPP solution. Finally, double-rinse the area with clean water.

## **Gasoline**

For spilled gasoline, wash the area with a detergent and water; soak-up the solution with disposable cloths; and double-rinse with clean water.

## **Urine / Vomit / Nasal Discharge**

For stains resulting from bodily fluids, wear disposable gloves for cleaning. Wash the area with a Borax™ or STPP solution and soak-up residue with disposable cloths. Then, disinfect the area by spraying on hydrogen peroxide and let it stand for at least 2 minutes. Follow by spraying again with vinegar, then let stand for an additional 2 minutes. Remaining liquid should be Soaked-up with disposable cloth, and the area double-rinsed with clean water. **\*DO NOT mix hydrogen peroxide and vinegar together. Spray separately for best results\***

\*\* In some cases, pressure washing (max of 1500 PSI) using a fan tip, as well as due care and caution. \*\*

## **Remove Organic Contaminants Promptly**

For organic contaminants such as moss, algae, mildew, and mold, saturate the area with hydrogen peroxide and let stand for at least 5 minutes. Repeat the saturation using vinegar, and soak-up residue with disposable cloths. Then, double-rinse with clean water.