

SEALER FAQ



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PREPARATION

Tiles, pavers, pool coping and brick veneer must be sealed to preserve color and appearance. Wall caps, pier caps, and balusters may be sealed depending on project requirements and installation location.

NOTE: Sealing will change color and texture of the original tile and the extent will vary depending on the specific sealer. Make sure to test first on a loose tile or small, unobtrusive area to ensure results are as desired.

Recommended sealers (LINK) can be purchased direct from ARTO. Pre-sealing by the factory is also available for an additional charge.

Make sure to seal grout joints or use waterproof grout when installing tiles that are pre-sealed by the factory or on the jobsite.

ARTO recommended sealers may also be used on poured concrete, natural stone, and other surfaces. Confirm that sealer selected is appropriate for the material.

Topical sealers coat the surface to create a barrier against stains and water intrusion and typically have a sheen from satin to high gloss.

Penetrating sealers work below the surface for a minimal change of appearance but offer less protection than topical sealers.

ARTO products are porous and will develop a unique patina over time. The effect will be more pronounced with penetrating sealer and even more so if products are not properly sealed.

Use a high quality sealer designed for tile and stone if you can't use an ARTO recommended sealer. Select carefully as sealers from big box stores are sometimes lower grade versions of the same brands.

APPLICATION

NOTE: Make sure to test sealer first on a loose piece or small unobtrusive area before sealing the installation. Once sealed, the appearance of the tiles will change permanently. Stripping the sealer is a labor-intensive process that can damage tiles and may not be possible with some sealers.

Sealer can change the color and sheen so make sure to test first to ensure finished look is as desired. Test sealer on loose pieces, a mockup, or a small, unobtrusive area.

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Roman Tiles & Pavers must be sealed with penetrating sealer prior to applying water based sealers. Solvent based sealers can be applied directly.

Carefully follow the sealer manufacturer's directions. Proper application is key to a long lasting finish.

Use the applicator or method recommended by the sealer manufacturer.

Solvent resistant rollers and brushes should be used. For higher quality use DRALON, mohair, animal hair, or lintless varieties.

The surface of the tile must be clean and dry prior to sealing. Any discoloration, residue or grout haze on the tile's surface must be removed or will be locked in the sealed surface.

Do not pressure wash tiles before or after sealing. Do not use cleaning machines prior to sealing.

Two coats of sealer are typically required so be aware of the recommended cure time before applying additional coats. **Water should bead up on surface if tiles are fully sealed.** If water darkens the surface, additional coat(s) of sealer are required to properly seal a new installation or reseal an existing installation.

Make sure sealed surface is properly cured per the sealer manufacturer's instructions before allowing traffic by users or other trades. Protect area from dust and debris.

Make sure to seal grout joints or use waterproof grout when installing tiles that are pre-sealed by the factory or on the jobsite.

MAINTENANCE

Do not use acidic or caustic cleaners which can remove the sealer and damage tiles.

Clean stains promptly as they will eventually penetrate the sealed surface. Acidic stains and oils especially should be cleaned quickly.

Do not strip or otherwise remove sealer as this may damage tile color or surface appearance. Make sure sealer is appropriate for the specific installation prior to application.

Reseal when water no longer beads on surface and is immediately absorbed when applied.